

ACTS 11-12

THE CHURCH GROWS

Chapter 11 The Church Experiences Growth

Summary: Peter defends God's grace upon Gentiles before contentious Jewish believers in Jerusalem. He satisfies them that God is saving Gentiles as well as Jews (1-18). The gospel spreads to Antioch, where many Gentiles become Christians (19-26). Relief is sent by Barnabus and Saul to the brethren in Judea [see 1 Cor. 16:1; Gal. 2:1-10] (27-30).

Lesson: *Jesus said, "on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18).*

Chapter 12 The Church Experiences Persecution

Summary: Herod Agrippa I kills James and imprisons Peter (1-4). Peter is freed from prison by an angel (5-19). Herod himself is struck by an angel and dies (20-24). Barnabas and Saul return with Mark to Antioch (25).

Lesson: *Church growth and persecution seem to go hand in hand.*