

John R. W. Stott

Acts 12 "opens with James dead, Peter in prison, and Herod triumphing; it closes with Herod dead, Peter free, and the word of God triumphing."¹

Let's Engage The Old, Old Story And See What God Will Do!

↳ Hatred & Violence

☆ Acts 14:22 – "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

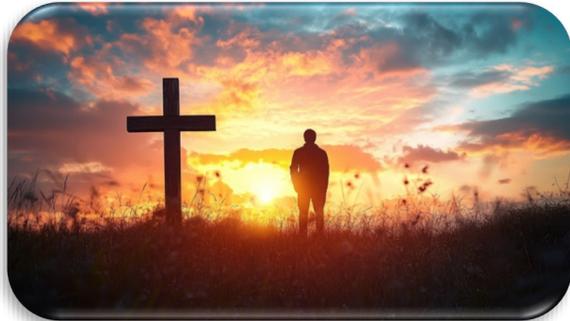
↳ Prayer & Preaching

☆ Romans 10:17 – "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God!"

☆ Jude 20-25 – "Build yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit!"

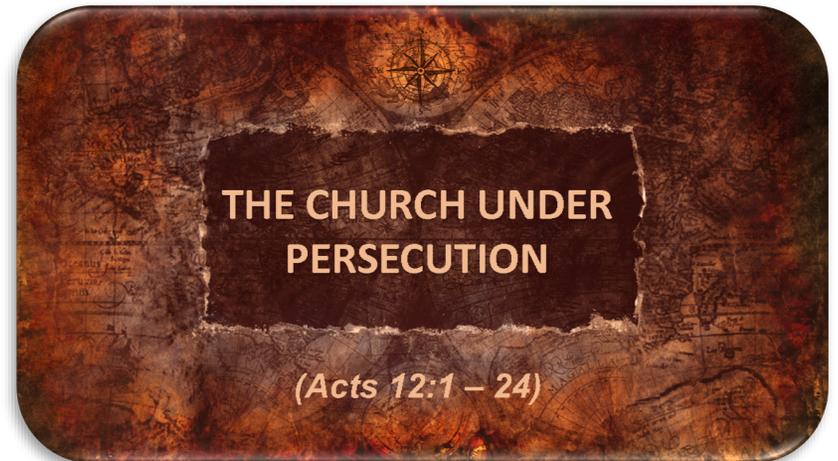
↳ Convincing & Intolerable

☆ The church under persecution, though she might be martyred and imprisoned, if she will pray and proclaim the Word of God, She will thrive and be victorious!



MESSAGE GUIDE

*Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: March 15, 2026*



Endnotes:

¹ Horton, Stanley M., *Acts – A Logion Press Commentary* (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, MO, 2001), p.230.

Message Guide

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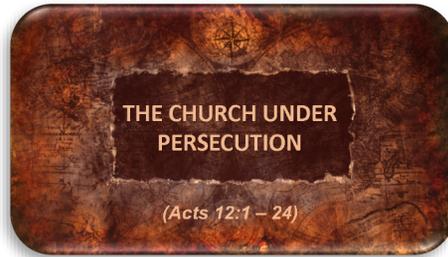
Today's Message:

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

"The Church Under Persecution: Martyred, Imprisoned, Praying, Thriving, and Victorious!"

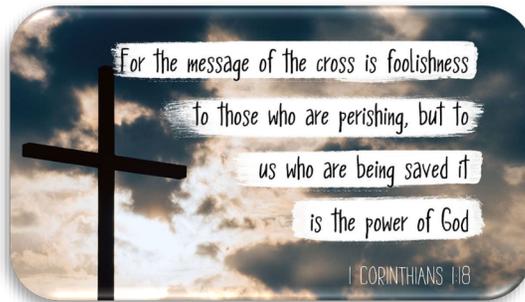
Text: Acts 12:1-24



"The Church Under Persecution"

The Old, Old Story

*I love to tell the story; 'Tis pleasant to repeat.
What seems each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story; For some have never heard,
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.*



Text – Acts 12:1-24

- ↪ Herod's Violence to the Church (vv.1-4)
- ↪ Peter Freed from Prison (vv.5-19)
- ↪ Herod's Violent Death (vv.20-23)
- ↪ The Church's Glorious Victory (v.24)

Hatred & Violence (Acts 12:1-4)

↪ There will always be hatred and violence towards the Church of Jesus Christ (John 8:44-45; 18:18-25).



↪ Herod's Violence to the Church (vv.1-4).

↪ Peter's Advice in the Face of Persecution (1 Peter 3:13-17; 4:12-19).

☆ Don't Be Afraid (3:14)

☆ Rejoice (4:13)

☆ Be Ready to Defend (3:15)

☆ Be Blessed (4:14)

☆ Keep A Good Conscience (3:16)

☆ Glorify God (4:16)

☆ Understand the Will of God (3:17)

☆ Commit Yourself To God (4:19)

Prayer & Blessing (Acts 12:5-19)

↪ The Antidote to Persecution is Prayer & Preaching (v.5; 4:19-20).

↪ Divine Miracles Follow (vv.6-11).

↪ The Church is Praying (vv.12-13).

↪ The Devil & His Cohorts are Trembling (vv.14-19; 5:19-25).



Convincing & Intolerable (Acts 12:20-24)

↪ The Evidence of Gospel Effectiveness is Both Convincing and Intolerable.

↪ **Intolerable** (Matthew 27; Acts 7:54-58; 8:1-3; 9:20-24; 12:21-23).

↪ **Convincing** (Acts 9; 1 Cor. 1:18, 23-24; Acts 12:24).