

The Book of
ACTS

IS JESUS WORTH IT?

(Acts 12:1-19)

Outline of the Book of Acts (Timeline):

<https://mansfieldgac.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/timeline-of-the-book-of-acts.pdf>

30 AD. (Acts 1): Jesus Christ crucified, buried, & Risen! Appears to more than 500, instructs the disciples, and ascends to heaven.

(Acts 2): The Holy Spirit comes & 3000 people are saved!

31 AD. (Acts 3-4): The lame man healed at the temple gate; the church in Jerusalem grows to 8000; Peter & John testify of Jesus before the Jewish Sanhedrin.

32 AD. (Acts 5): Ananias & Saphira judged by God; many people healed and demons cast out; the Apostles imprisoned again and miraculously set free.

33 AD. (Acts 6-7): First deacons chosen in the church to deal with a problem; many Jewish priests are saved; Stephen's ministry leads to his martyrdom.

34 AD. (Acts 8): Persecution breaks out against the church in Jerusalem lead by Saul of Tarsus; the church is scattered but goes preaching the word; Philip the Deacon takes the Gospel to Samaria and many are saved.

35-37 AD. (Acts 9): Saul (Paul) meets Jesus on the road to Damascus and surrenders in salvation! He begins to spread the Gospel.

37-40 AD. (Acts 9:32—10:48): Peter ministers in Lydda and Joppa. Cornelius, the first fully Gentile convert saved in Caesarea!

41-44 AD. (Acts 11:1—12:19): Peter debates the salvation of the Gentiles to the Jerusalem church, Barnabas & Saul minister to the church in Antioch, Agabus predicts the famine, Herod kills James the brother of John, & Peter is put in prison.

I. IS JESUS WORTH IT?

A. THE DANGER OF FOLLOWING JESUS:

- 1 The first church (of the 1st Century) were not only targeted for persecution because of their beliefs, but they were also an easy target. They were a scapegoat.
- 2 Herod killed James because it pleased the Jews. Herod was trying to solidify his political power.
- 3 Herod had background with both Emperor Caligula and Claudius.
- 4 As the time of Jesus' return draws near, it is becoming more dangerous to be one of His followers. I would rather stand with Jesus than stand against Him.

B. PRAYER WARRIORS & FREEDOM FIGHTERS:

- 1 Herod seized Peter and intended to kill him also. The church feared for Peter's life and desperately prayed for him. In response, God sent an angel to rescue Peter.
- 2 Notice how specific the Lord is in rescuing Peter..step-by-step instructions.
- 3 Why did Peter need that help? He was asleep.

C. THE PEACE OF GOD & THE VALUE OF LIFE:

- 1 The night before Peter was to be executed, what was he doing? Sleeping. Peter's hope & trust in the Lord:
 - a) **1 Peter 1:13**—"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."
 - b) **1 Peter 4:19**—"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator." Trusting in the word spoken
- 2 WHY FOLLOW JESUS? Peach in the midst of the storm.
- 3 God's value of life is different from the world's value. (See verses 18-19)

New Vision Baptist Church

May 31st, 2026--AM