

We will now begin the eleventh lecture on the book of Acts. /The title of this chapter is, "Jerusalem."

/First, the Jew's question. /Verses 1-3. /Second, Peter's explanation. /Verses 4-18. /Third, the start of the church of Antioch. /Verses 19-30.

/Read 11:1. /The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

/The Gentiles received the Word of God. /The Jews heard about this. /This news spread to far places.

/Verses 2-3. /So when Peter went to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

/Peter traveled from Caesarea to Jerusalem. /There, the circumcised believers criticized Peter. /The circumcised believers refer to the Jews who believed in Jesus.

/These Jews were still caught up in the old traditions. /They considered humanly traditions extremely important. /According to their traditions, they were not to associate with Gentiles.

/They were not to eat food with Gentiles. /This was merely a tradition, not a part of the law. /The Jews criticized Peter for socializing with Gentiles. /They criticized Peter.

/In verses 4-15, /Peter tells them what happened. /He tells them the reason for going to the house of Cornelius to spread the gospel. /He tells them about the three visions he had in Joppa.

/Peter tells them that he was invited to Cornelius' home. /Peter then went and preached the gospel, /and everyone in the household received the Holy Spirit.

/He tells them in detail about what happened. /Peter tells them that he did not go because he chose to, but because he received God's revelation.

/Thus, Peter received the revelation during prayer. /Cornelius also saw a vision. /It was the instruction of the Holy Spirit. /Then Peter preached the gospel in Cornelius' home, /and the Helper Holy Spirit came to them.

/Peter tells them that he baptized Cornelius and his family. /In this way, the Gentiles have the right to receive the gospel. /This was part of the will of God. /Man cannot oppose the will of God.

/Verses 16-17. /Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose

God?"

/"John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." /We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in Jesus Christ. /The Gentiles believed in Jesus and received the Holy Spirit. /Acts 1:5. /Matthew 3:11.

/To stop the spreading of the gospel to Gentiles is to block the will of God. /God's will is to give Gentiles in the New Testament period the opportunity to repent.

/Verse 18. /When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

/When the Jews heard this, they had nothing to say. /They praised God. /Then they came to realization. /They realized, "God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

/The believers among the Jews now realized what the will of God was. /Our Jesus is not only Jesus of the Jews. /Our Jesus is also Jesus of the Gentiles. /"Whether one is a Jew or a Gentile, whoever believes in Jesus will receive salvation." /The Jews realized that this was the will of God.

/Verse 19. /Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews.

/The deacon Stephen was martyred. /Many believers were scattered by persecution. /They went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. /"Phoenicia" is located in the district of Tyre and Sidon.

/"Cyprus" is an island located near Palestine. /"Antioch" is the capital of Syria, located in the northern area of Palestine. /The city has a population of approximately 500,000 people. /Later, this Antioch would become the center of world missions.

/Later, Paul and Barnabas were dispatched as missionaries to the church of Antioch. /Here, we must understand one thing. /Many believers were scattered by persecution.

/However, this only became an opportunity to spread the gospel to farther places. /God works for the good of those who love him. /Because of the persecution of believers, the gospel was able to be spread to far places.

/The believers first only evangelized to the Jews. /Yet, later, the gospel was preached even to the Gentiles. /There is distress when one doesn't evangelize. /Whether people listen to us or don't, we must preach the gospel.

/There is God's power in the gospel. /Romans 1:16. /1 Corinthians 9:16. /The Holy Spirit is with us when we preach the gospel. /The Holy Spirit clothes us with power.

/Verses 20-21. /Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

/A group of people went to Antioch. /Then they evangelized to Greeks. /They evangelized to Gentiles. /Many came to believe in Jesus. /God's great power was seen through them.

/Verses 22-23. /News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

/There was news that many Gentiles believed in the region of Antioch. /The church at Jerusalem heard this news. /Hence, Barnabas was sent to Antioch.

/He was sent there to nurture the new believers. /He was to help sturdily bring up the church of Antioch. /Barnabas was a man with good faith. /4:36-37.

/Barnabas experienced the grace of God and rejoiced in it. /He was glad when he saw that the church was thriving by the grace of God. /Then he "encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts."

/He encouraged them to be strong and bold in their faith. /They were not to let their hearts be shaken. /They were not to lose their faith. /Faith must grow. /We also must not fall when we face trials.

/We must build our faith on the Rock of Ages. /We must stand firm in our faith.

/Verse 24. /He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

/Barnabas was a good man. /He was full of the Holy Spirit and faith. /Barnabas went to the church of Antioch and sturdily brought up the church. /Then many people gathered in the church.

/Verses 25-26. /Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

/Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul. /"Tarsus" is Saul's hometown. /Then Barnabas took Saul to Antioch. /Then Barnabas and Saul taught the Scriptures for a year.

/Barnabas brought up Saul. /9:26-27. /Barnabas thought that he could bring up the church of Antioch with Saul. /Barnabas saw Saul's capability. /Barnabas saw Saul's capability.

/Barnabas understood Saul. /Barnabas took Saul out to work together. /He loved his partner. /They worked together. /Barnabas did not envy Saul. /Barnabas wanted Saul to do well and wanted the church to flourish.

/Saul played an important role in teaching the Scriptures. /Barnabas lifted Saul up. /This was similar to the relationship between Jonathan and David. /It was like the relationship between Andrew and Peter.

/Saul and Barnabas taught the Scriptures in the church of Antioch. /Therefore, the church of Antioch received the name, "Christian." /"Christian" means one who belongs to Christ.

/It means to be Christ's possession. /That is what it means. /At first, the word was used as slander. /Acts 26:28. /This means to be an expert in Jesus. /At first, the term was used to slander believers of Jesus.

/However, the term, "Christian," became a glorious name. /This means to be an expert on Jesus. /At first, the term was used as slander, but it later became a glorious name.

/A cross was originally a cursed cross. /However, because Jesus carried to the cross and rose again from the dead, the cross became a glorious cross.

/It became a sign of glory. /Therefore, it is crucial that we teach the Bible. /It is also important to learn about the Bible.

/Verse 27. /During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

/During that time, some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. /The prophets of the New Testament were teachers and educators. /They were people who taught the Bible.

/There was one man named Agabus. /He prophesied that there would be a severe famine. /His prophecy came true. /There was a famine during the reign of Claudius.

/There was a reason why God gave a warning about the famine. /This was to call on people to repent. /Today's "prophecies" are the words written in the Bible. /Matthew 24:7-8.

/Jesus prophesied about the Last Days. /We must realize the words of prophecy through the Bible.

/Verse 29. /The disciples, each according to his ability, decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea.

/The church of Jerusalem encountered a severe famine. /Believers in Jerusalem faced great hardships. /Thus, the members of the church of Antioch donated their personal

items to help the church of Jerusalem.

/The church of Jerusalem received the spiritual Word through the church of Antioch.  
/Therefore, it was suitable for the church of Antioch to help the church of Jerusalem with materialistic goods. /Romans 15:25-27.

/Helping the poor is to bear fruit. /It is an offering with an aroma pleasing to God.  
/Philippians 4:17-18.

/Verse 30. /This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

/The people sent their gifts to the elders of Jerusalem through Barnabas and Saul. /They helped the poor in the church of Jerusalem. /We must also help churches that are having difficult times.

/We will continue with the lecture on Acts chapter 12. /The title is “Peter’s Escape From Prison.”

/First, the martyr of the apostle James. /Verses 1-2. /Second, Peter is put in prison.  
/Verses 3-4. /Third, the church prays for Peter. /Verses 5-6. /Fourth, an angel saves Peter.  
/Verses 7-12.

/Fifth, Peter leaves after informing believers of his escape. /Verses 13-17. /Sixth, the prison guards are executed. /Verses 18-19. /Seventh, Herod dies and is eaten by worms. /Verses 20-23. /Eighth, The word of God increases and spreads. /Verses 24-25.

/Read 12:1-2. /It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

/King Herod had the apostle James killed by the sword. /As the gospel began to spread farther, there were greater persecutions. /The King Herod here is the nephew of the earlier Herod. /He is Herod Agrippa I. /He reigned over the entire Palestine territory.

/King Herod persecuted Christians to win favor of the Jews. /He killed the apostle James. /The apostle James is the first martyr from among the twelve disciples. /Why was the apostle James martyred first at such a young age?

/God accepts sacrifice offerings first that are without blemish. /Martyrdom is the greatest thing one can do for God. /Martyrs become kernels of wheat that fall to the ground. /John 12:23-25.

/Through martyrs, there is great fruit. /2 Corinthians 5:4. /Martyrs receive special honor in the kingdom of heaven. /Matthew 20:23. /James was martyred as was prophesied.

/Verses 3-4. /When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also.

This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

/The Jews were pleased when King Herod had the apostle James put to death. /Believers received sufferings and persecutions. /People of the world dislike believers. /People also disliked Jesus. /John 15:18-19.

/Now King Herod attempted to kill Peter. /He saw that the Jews were pleased so he attempted to kill Peter. /Herod had Peter put in prison. /He intended to kill Peter after the Passover.

/Verse 5. /So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

/Members of the church prayed earnestly when Peter was in prison. /This is a beautiful act. /Believers must pray when pastors are put in prison.

/To pray means to be with the person in prison. /Hebrews 13:3. /Therefore, whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward.

/Verse 6. /The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

/Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. /He was bound by chains. /Sentries stood guard outside the prison doors. /Peter was asleep. /This shows that Peter that exceptional faith.

/He didn't know when he would die. /Yet, his heart was at peace. /He believed that life and death were in the hands of God. /Philippians 1:21. /Peter was alive through the grace of Christ.

/He had faith that believed in the sovereignty of God. /He knew that life and death were in the hands of God. /Psalm 127:2. /Jehovah grants sleep to those he loves. /Peter laid everything down before God. /He was at peace.

/Verse 7. /Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

/An angel appeared at night. /The angel woke Peter up. /Then the chains fell off of Peter. /God worked. /Then the angel told Peter, "Take your sandals."

/Peter followed the angel. /The prison doors were opened. /Yet, people did not know. /The doors opened by the works of God. /Psalm 127:1. /God freed Peter.

/God heard the prayers of the believers. /There was still work do be done through Peter.

/Verse 11. /Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."

/Peter came to himself. /Then he realized that an angel had saved him. /He gave thanks and glory to God. /He experienced the power of God.

/Then he went to the house of John, also called Mark. /There were many believers there who gathered to pray. /Peter went to give the believers the good news.

/Verses 13-14. /Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

/When Peter knocked on the door, a girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. /Rhoda recognized Peter. /She was so overjoyed she ran back without opening the door and told the people who were inside.

/Then the believers told the girl, "You're out of your mind." /They did not even consider the thought that Peter had come out of prison. /Then they told the girl, "It must be his angel."

/The believers thought that the angel who guarded Peter was at the door. /Of course, this does not mean that every person has a personal angel. /Angels are servants. /Hebrews 1:14. /Peter continued to knock on the door. /Then they were astonished when they saw Peter.

/Verse 17. /Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

/Peter informed them of what had happened. /He told them that the Lord brought him out of prison. /"James" in this text refers to the Lord's younger brother. /Jesus' disciple James was martyred in 12:1.

/Here, "James" refers to Jesus' younger brother. /Matthew 13:55. /Galatians 2:9. /The Lord's younger brother James became like a pillar in the church of Jerusalem.

/Verses 18-19. /In the morning, there was no commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while.

/In the morning, Herod searched for Peter. /However, Peter was gone. /Herod was furious and ordered that the guards be executed. /Then King Herod went to Caesarea and stayed

there a while.

/None of the strongest kings in the world can win God. /The gospel will have the final victory. /Psalm 2:1-4.

/Verse 20. /He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. Having secured the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king's country for their food supply.

/Herod had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and Sidon. /At the time, the people of Tyre and Sidon bought food from the Jewish land. /However, there was conflict between the Jews and the people of Tyre and Sidon.

/Therefore, King Herod became angry and cut off the food supply for the people of Tyre and Sidon.

/Then the people of Tyre and Sidon became impoverished because they had no food. /Therefore, the people wanted to make peace with the king through the king's personal servant, Blastus.

/Verse 21. /On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.

/Herod appointed a day and wearing his royal robes, sat before the people. /Many people gathered. /There was a great feast. /The people of Tyre and Sidon wanted to use this opportunity to make peace with the king.

/Verse 22. /They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."

/The people shouted. /They praised King Herod by saying he had "the voice of a god." /The people flattered King Herod. /They deified King Herod and lifted him up.

/Verse 23. /Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

/The people lifted King Herod up. /Then Herod did not give praise to God. /Hence, an angel of the Lord struck Herod. /Herod was eaten by worms. /King Herod suddenly became ill and died.

/We must give glory to God. /Malachi 2:2. /God is not pleased when we do not give him glory. /We must be humble. /Even if we one day become kings, we must remain humble.

/When we become great, we must know that it is all by the grace of God. /1 Corinthians 10:31. /Whether we eat or do something, we must do it all and live for the glory of God. /We must not become arrogant when people lift us up. /We must give glory only to God.



/Verses 24-25. /But the word of God continued to increase and spread. When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

/The word of God continued to increase and spread. /Those who stood against God received judgment. /The number of believers increased. /The works of God continued to thrive.

/Barnabas and Saul helped the church of Jerusalem and then returned. /They returned to Antioch. /They brought back with them John, also called Mark.

/Barnabas and Saul took John, also called Mark, and returned to the church of Antioch. /They brought John as a servant.

/John, also called Mark, is the author of the gospel of Mark. /Mark followed Barnabas and Saul when they traveled for missions.

/Here we will conclude the eleventh lecture on the book of Acts. /Thank you.