

Explore the Bible
Bible Study Lesson Schedule and Weekly Essentials
Spring Quarter, 2016
Acts 1-12

March 6 -

Lesson Passage: Acts 1:1-11

Essentials:

- Acts 1:1-5 is the introduction to the book.
- Verse 1 – Luke refers to the “first account I composed” which is the Gospel of Luke. He mentions all that Jesus “began to do and teach.” Luke’s Gospel was only the beginning – it continues here in Acts and right up to the present day!
- Verse 2- Jesus was “taken up,” that is, He ascended into heaven after He had given orders to His apostles.
- Verse 3 – the resurrected Christ appeared to His apostles over a period of forty days and preached of the Kingdom of God, “This is the only reference in the Bible to the length of Christ’s post-resurrection ministry on earth.”[*The New Scofield Reference Bible*, footnote 1 on page 1160] See also Luke 24:25-27, 36-44.
- Verses 4-5 – Jesus gathered them together and commanded them to wait – not what we would expect in launching a world-wide ministry! But, they needed to wait for the power/ability that would be theirs through the Holy Spirit “not many days from now.” They could not carry out the mission without the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts has been called “The Acts of the Holy Spirit” and “The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles.”
- Verses 6-8 – Their question is reasonable. They knew they would have positions of authority in the kingdom (Luke 22:28-30). So, they believed that when Jesus referred to the coming of the Spirit He meant that the kingdom was being set up. Jesus’ answer in verse 7 has to do with the timing

of when the kingdom will be set up. In the meantime...He gives them the commission in verse 8. They would receive power/ability in the form of the Holy Spirit to enable them to be His witnesses. The scope of the mission: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the remotest part of the earth. It has been suggested that verse 8 is an outline of the Book of Acts – the spread of the Gospel.

- Verses 9-11 – The importance of the Ascension:
 - (1) It marked the end of Jesus' personal ministry on earth.
 - (2) He was taken up into heaven in victory over sin and death.
 - (3) He is the forerunner of all believers who follow in that He was the first resurrected man to enter heaven.
 - (4) His return will be in the same way – visible and bodily.

March 12-13 (Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday – Spring Forward!)

Lesson Passage: Acts 2:1-15

Essentials:

- Verse 1 - The Day of Pentecost was also called the Feast of Weeks. It was a week of weeks after the Passover or 50 days. The name "Pentecost" means "50" in Greek. Since it was an important festival in the Jewish calendar, Jews traveled to Jerusalem from all over the ancient world.
- Verses 2-3 – It was something they could feel, hear and see. Fire was associated with God: Exodus 3:2; Luke 3:16. Wind was associated with the Holy Spirit: Ezekiel 37:9- 14; John 3:8. The word for "spirit" also means "breath" or "wind."
- Verse 4 – explanation of the phenomena – it was the coming of the Holy Spirit on the believers, which is what Jesus commanded them to wait for in Acts 1:8. It was Spirit baptism and filling at the same time. It happened after salvation because it was the initial coming of the Holy Spirit to the earth to indwell believers. After Pentecost, the baptism of the Spirit happened and still happens today at conversion – it is not a second experience. See Romans 6:3-4; 8:9-11. They were filled with the Spirit and spoke with other tongues. The filling of the Spirit did not and does not always result in speaking in tongues. It did not always result in tongues even within the book of Acts – see Acts 4:8, 31; 13:9.
- Verses 5-11 – proves that tongues were a known language because people from different language groups heard them speak "in his own language."(v.6) Those who heard were from Egypt, Asia Minor and Italy – the people groups are named in these verses. They knew the speakers were Galileans because of their accent – just as we would recognize a Southern accent or a Texas drawl. It was not unusual to hear all of the dialects. What was unusual was that all dialects were being spoken by Galileans.

APPLICATION:

The Holy Spirit gives us the ability to live the Christian life and to share boldly the gospel. The focus should not be on tongues, so don't get side-

tracked. As the Lifeway Leader's Guide states, "Believers today may not demonstrate the same supernatural ability given as a miraculous sign to those at Pentecost, but we still boldly proclaim the magnificent acts of God in the Spirit's power." (page 27)

- Verses 12-13 – "Sweet wine" means new wine; they were accused of being drunk.
- Verses 14-15 – Peter takes advantage of the gathering crowd to preach the gospel with boldness. The result: three thousand people responded, received the word and were baptized! (Acts 2:41) The Christian Church was officially launched!

March 20 (Sunday is Palm Sunday)

Lesson Passage: Acts 2:41-47

Essentials:

- Acts 2:41 tells us that when the Christian Church was launched on the Day of Pentecost, that there were 3000 souls saved and baptized. That sounds like a pretty big church to me! What then? What did they do?

- Verse 42-43 – These new converts were formed into a distinct community or fellowship and continually devoted themselves to:

- (1) The apostles' teaching. New and old converts need the teaching of God's Word. In the first century, it mainly took the form of the spoken word by a group of gifted men. At first, their teaching was authenticated by signs and miracles (v. 43), but in due course, it took the form of the New Testament Scriptures. The teaching and preaching of God's Word must be central and a vital part of any church.

- (2) Fellowship. They had vital relationships. The word "fellowship" means sharing, participation and contributing to one another's needs. Fellowship in the New Testament sense goes way beyond coffee and donuts!

- (3) The breaking of bread. They shared meals together including the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a memorial to remember what He did for us on the cross and as a symbol of our union with Him.

- (4) Prayer – both corporate and in small groups. Sharing prayer requests and praying gets us involved with one another beyond a superficial level. Verse 43 also tells us that in general everyone felt a sense of awe as to what the Lord was doing. Every Bible-believing, Bible-teaching church should experience this same sense of awe.

- Verses 44-45 – What makes this so unique? These reasons: (1) The sharing was spontaneous, as needs arose. (2) It was voluntary – not everyone was required to participate. (3) It was done at a time of intense persecution against Christians, some of which was economic persecution. (4) It was only practiced in the Jerusalem church. We should be generous in sharing with

others as opportunities arise and as we are able.

- Verses 46-47 – By mingling around the temple they were able to do evangelism among their Jewish brethren – they didn't isolate themselves from society. They had smaller gatherings "house to house;" they were praising the Lord and were attractive to outsiders. They were a growing church as the Lord "added to their numbers." A healthy church *will grow* both spiritually and numerically!

April 3

Lesson Passage: Acts 4:1-13

Essentials:

- The church was born on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and 3000 were saved. Peter preached a second sermon and before he finished, he and John were arrested by the authorities and thrown in jail. But, another 5000 believed (Acts 4:4)! As the church grew so did the persecution – see Acts 4:2. How did they respond to the persecution? They responded with holy boldness! How can we as believers have holy boldness in sharing our faith?

- Verses 5-8 – Holy boldness comes from the Holy Spirit not from human personality. It states in verse 8 that Peter stood before some powerful rulers and was filled with the Holy Spirit. Remember, this is the same guy who denied 3 times that he even knew Jesus. The difference was that he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Verses 9-12 – Holy boldness speaks of Jesus Christ. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in and through our lives causes people to see Jesus and draw attention to Him (John 16:13-14). Peter and John had healed the man in the powerful Name of Jesus, and there is salvation in no one else but Jesus Christ. There are NOT many ways to heaven, all equally valid. Jesus is the only way to heaven. Therefore, when in a witnessing situation, talk about Jesus – not a church, not religion or some peripheral issue, but Jesus.

- Verse 13 – Holy boldness results from being in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The authorities attributed the confidence of Peter and John to having been “with Jesus”!

It was not their education or their training – it was their relationship with Jesus that made all the difference. Of course, there is a place for education and training but the key is to be in a relationship with Jesus. Spend consistent time with Him in Bible study and prayer. Chuck Swindoll has said, “A godly walk is basic to a positive life.”

- Suggested action steps:
(1) Be sure of your salvation. TEACHERS: Do not assume that all who are in your class are sure of their salvation.

- (2) Make a list of those in your network (family, co-workers, neighbors, etc.)
- (3) Pray for the people on your list.
- (4) Get some training in how to share the gospel.
- (5) Write out your personal testimony – your experience with Jesus Christ. It can be a powerful bridge to another person. Paul shared his testimony on two occasions in Acts: Chapters 22 and 26.

April 9-10

Lesson Passage: Acts 4:36-37; 5:1-11

Essentials:

- The church in Acts had all the marks of a healthy church:
 - (1) Numerical growth.
 - (2) Unity and generosity – things were held in common, and they shared with one another.
 - (3) Strong preaching/teaching.
 - (4) Intense persecution from the outside – Peter and John had already been thrown in prison.

- 4:36-37 – Joseph, who was called Barnabas, sold some land and gave the proceeds to the apostles to use as they deemed appropriate. He was the positive, godly example.

- 5:1-6 – As a contrast to Barnabas, what Ananias did could be called persecution of the church from within the church. Satan couldn't defeat the church from the outside, so he went on the inside by tempting Ananias (v. 3). He was not wrong to sell his property and keep some of the proceeds. His sin was in lying to the church which was the same as lying to God. The incident showed the reality of the Holy Spirit in the church and the solemn implications of it. We also see from verses 3 and 4 that the Holy Spirit is equal to God. After Ananias heard the words of accusation from Peter, he fell down and died.

- 5:7-10 – Enter Sapphira, not aware of her husband's death. She also lied to the church leaders, which shows that this was a pre-meditated plot by husband and wife. Peter accuses her not only of lying but testing the Holy Spirit, that is, trying to see what she and her husband can get away with. She also fell down and died.

- 5:11 – as a result of the discipline of this couple, all believers, and unbelievers who heard of it felt great fear – see also verse 5.

What are we to think and to learn from this?

- (1) It revealed that God is serious about sin, particularly lying, in His church.
- (2) It marked the church off as distinct from Israel, for such discipline was never seen in Israel. In fact, this is the first time the word "church" is used in Acts.

- (3) It introduced rather dramatically the principle of church discipline.
- (4) It showed that God was at work in this new group.

APPLICATION:

Were Ananias and Sapphira believers? There is no indication in the text that would cast doubt on their salvation, but they did experience what we could call "temporal judgment." See also 1 Corinthians 11:30 which refers to God's judgment on those who partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. Ananias and Sapphira lost their lives but not their salvation.

April 17

Lesson Passage: Acts 5:25-42

Essentials:

- This is another example of persecution of the church by the authorities. Verses 17-25– as background - evidently, all of the apostles were arrested and imprisoned; an angel of the Lord released them, and before the authorities realized it, the apostles were back in the temple area teaching the people! Notice: they did not stop preaching and teaching even after being thrown in prison.

- Verses 26-32 – They were taken into custody again but without violence because the authorities were afraid of the people. Also, the apostles did not resist an arrest which helped keep the peace. This was First Century civil disobedience. They were ordered not to teach “in this name;” later in verse 28 they said “this man’s blood” – they would not even speak the name of Jesus, which shows their contempt for Him. “We must obey God rather than men”(v.29) is a crucial principle.

APPLICATION:

Christians around the world are free to share the gospel; unfortunately, in some countries, they are not free from the consequences which include prison, torture, and death. Peter’s message was the same: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is still the good news today and we must not be afraid to share it!

- Verses 33-40 – Gamaliel’s advice to the Council: if this movement is not from God, it will die out but if from God, you cannot overthrow them and you may be fighting against God. Sound advice! So, they gave them an obligatory flogging and let them go.

- Verses 41-42 – The response of the apostles was: (1) To rejoice that they were worthy to suffer for Jesus and (2) To go right on teaching and preaching that Jesus is the Christ, that is, doing the very thing that got them in trouble! This was an incredible example of faithfulness in the face of opposition.

April 24

Lesson Passage: Acts 6:1-10

Essentials:

- Look at Satan's strategy so far to destroy the church: Acts 4 – persecution from outside; the apostles were jailed and beaten. Acts 5 – persecution from within the church; Ananias and Sapphira were tempted, lied to the church leaders and ultimately the Holy Spirit, and were disciplined severely.

- Acts 6:1 – Satan's next tactic: bickering within the church to cause dissension. Notice that the disciples were increasing in number; that is, the church was growing and flourishing. The two groups who were at odds with one another: (1) Hellenistic Jews who were not from Jerusalem and spoke Greek as their native language. (2) Native Hebrews who were from Palestine and spoke Aramaic or Hebrew. The issue: the daily distribution of food and funds – one group was being neglected.

- 6:2-4 – The church leaders, "the twelve," came up with the solution to select seven men to make sure the food and funds were distributed fairly. Thus, the twelve could continue serving in the capacity of prayer and teaching God's word, so the work load was divided. Verse 3 lists the qualifications which were spiritual. These men were to be spiritual leaders, not just "grunts" who would serve tables!

- 6:5 - Stephen and Philip were the most prominent; we know very little about what happened to the other 5. Philip became known as Philip the Evangelist and led the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ in Acts 8. Stephen is mentioned later in this chapter and in chapter 7; we will look at him later.

- 6:6 – Some commentators do not believe that this was the official creation of deacons since the word "deacon" is not mentioned. In fact, the word is not used in the entire book of Acts. They were commissioned or ordained by the laying on of hands by the apostles. 6:7 – a summary statement as to the growth of the church which was still located in Jerusalem.

- 6:8-10 – Stephen is introduced in more detail. He was a godly, powerful individual who drew opposition from some men from the

Synagogue of the Freedmen. This was a synagogue visited by Hellenistic Jews from outside of Palestine. They had public debates with Stephen, were unable to silence him so they tried another tactic: spread lies about him. He was brought up on false charges and Acts 7 is his brilliant defense. Result: he was stoned to death becoming the first martyr of the Christian Church.

- Acts 7:58 – As Stephen was being stoned, we are introduced to a young man named Saul, who undoubtedly was influenced by Stephen's death.

May 1

Lesson Passage: Acts 8:26-39

Essentials:

- Background: Following the death of Stephen, a great persecution arose against the church and the believers were scattered. However, it caused the gospel to spread throughout the region. Acts 8 focuses on the ministry of Philip.

- 8:26-29 – While Philip was ministering in Samaria, an angel directed him to go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip was obedient – he arose and went. In fact, throughout this narrative, the primary characteristic of Philip is that he was obedient in sharing his faith. He obeyed and went up and joined the Ethiopian court official on his chariot. The man was reading from Isaiah.

- 8:30-35 – Philip opened the conversation by asking a question, which is almost always a good idea. He didn't run up and say, "You need Jesus!" He showed an interest in the man, and he invited Philip to join him. The passage he was reading was from Isaiah 53, which clearly refers to the Messiah. The man asked Philip about whom the passage was talking. Philip responded by telling him about Jesus Christ.

- 8:36-40 – Philip was satisfied that the man had trusted in Jesus as his Savior because he baptized him and the Spirit "snatched" Philip away. Mission accomplished.

- Principles of evangelism we can learn from Philip:
 - (1) Be available; don't look at evangelism as the responsibility of someone else.
 - (2) Be obedient.
 - (3) Be sensitive – look for opportunities.
 - (4) Be interested in the other person – ask questions.
 - (5) Be ready to tell them about Jesus; not religion, church, classes, programs or activities. Those elements can be part of the story but the main issue is Jesus and having a relationship with Him.

- (6) Get some training. To be able to share your faith you need to know the basics of the Gospel and how to lead someone to Christ.
- (7) Write out your personal testimony. Be able to share your story of salvation; it is a powerful tool. The apostle Paul shared his testimony twice in the book of Acts. The Lord will use you! It is not a question of ability but availability.
- (8) Be ready to follow through with the person – baptism, church membership, joining a class, etc.

May 7-8 (Sunday is Mother's Day)
Lesson Passage: Acts 9:3-20

Essentials:

- This is the dramatic account of the conversion of Saul, who would become known as Paul, the Apostle.
- Verses 1-2 – Saul was a hard case. Saul was busy persecuting and arresting Christians – “breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord”! He lived to persecute Christians and believed he was serving God in doing so.
- Verses 3-6 – A voice speaks to him saying, “Why are you persecuting Me?” Notice, He does not say “Christians,” but “Me.” Saul asks His identity and is told it is Jesus, whom Saul is persecuting. Note: if someone persecutes Jesus’ followers they are persecuting Jesus Himself. Jesus told His disciples this would happen: John 15:18-20.
- Verses 6-9 – Jesus gives Saul instructions: “enter the city and you will get further instructions.” The men with him heard the voice but didn’t see anything. Saul was struck blind and was led by the hand into the city of Damascus. What a contrast: He started out breathing threats, arresting Christians and ended up being led by the hand like a little child. He was three days without his sight and fasted for those three days.

APPLICATION:

At conversion, each of us must become like a child with simple faith in Jesus. See Matthew 18:3.

- Verses 10-12 – Instructions are given to a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. He is to go and care for and disciple Saul.
- Verses 13-14 – Ananias is hesitant at first, which is understandable. It would be like asking a Jew in 1940 to go and care for and disciple Hitler!

- Verses 15-16 – Ananias receives further instructions which include the Lord's far-reaching plans for Saul. Not only will he have a powerful ministry but notice that the Lord predicts that he will also suffer. Even before Saul has a clue as to what he will do, the Lord says that his suffering is part of the program. Why will he suffer? For the same reason every Christian suffers persecution in some form: the world hates Jesus.
- Verses 17-19 – Ananias obeys the Lord, and the discipleship of Saul begins. He was baptized, took food and was welcomed into the community of believers in Damascus.
- Verse 20 – "Immediately" he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogue.

APPLICATION

#1: This does not mean that every new convert should immediately start sharing his faith. We know from other of Paul's writings (Galatians 1:15-17) that he went to Arabia and took time for reflection and seasoning before going to Jerusalem and connecting with the church leaders.

APPLICATION #2: Whatever a person has done, he can be forgiven! Paul called himself the "foremost" of all sinners – see 1 Timothy 1:15-16. He tried to arrest and kill Christians and yet he was forgiven and used of the Lord in a mighty way.

May 15

Lesson Passage: Acts 9:36-43

Essentials:

- Following the conversion of Paul, Luke now shifts his focus back to the ministry of Peter in a region of Palestine which was occupied by both Jews and Gentiles. “Luke thereby helped his readers see the equality of Gentiles and Jews in the church as it continued to expand.”[*Notes on Acts*, p. 158]
- Verses 32-35 – Background: Peter healed a man named Aeneas in Lydda, a town about 25 miles NW of Jerusalem. As a result of the healing, many in this area believed in Jesus (v. 35), setting the stage for what would happen next.
- Verses 36-37 – We are introduced to Tabitha, called by her Greek name, Dorcas. She was called “a disciple” who “was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity.” She lived in the town of Joppa, on the coast of the Mediterranean, about 10 miles NW of Lydda, where Peter was. She took sick and died.
- Verses 38-39 – The believers knew Peter was in nearby Lydda, sent for him and brought him to Joppa and the upper room where they had laid Dorcas. It was a tender scene with the widows weeping and showing Peter the garments that Dorcas had made. She had no doubt ministered to these widows.
- Verses 40-41 – Peter sent everyone away, knelt down by the body and prayed. Then calling her by her Aramaic name, Tabitha, he commanded her to arise. Peter’s procedure was almost exactly like Jesus’ when He raised Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:41; Luke 8:51-56). Jesus had given the Twelve the authority and power to raise the dead (Matthew 10:8). The raising of Tabitha (Dorcas) is evidence of that fact! Peter depended on Jesus for the power to heal Aeneas and to raise Tabitha. The raising of Tabitha is also similar to the stories of Elijah and Elisha raising someone from the dead. Healings and people being raised from the dead authenticated and validated the message of the gospel being preached.

Remember three things:

- (1) At this time there was no New Testament.
- (2) There were many false teachers and false messages.
- (3) The salvation of a lost sinner is a greater miracle than healing or even someone being raised from the dead!

- Verses 42-43 – The result of this miracle: many believed in the Lord. The Person in whom they believed was Jesus, not Peter. The miracle was to point people to Jesus. Peter stayed many days in Joppa, presumably ministering and teaching the new converts. The fact that he stayed with a tanner is significant. Jews believed tanners were ceremonially unclean because they worked with the hides of dead animals. However, Peter was more open minded and would eventually have an even broader ministry to Gentiles in Acts 10.

May 22

Lesson Passage: Acts 10:9-15, 43-48

Essentials:

- Background: Let's review a broad outline of Acts. Chapters 1-7: the spread of the gospel in Jerusalem. Chapters 8-9: the spread of the gospel in Judea, Samaria and Galilee. Chapters 10-28: Acts 10 marks a major shift in emphasis to the gospel spreading to the Gentiles and thus the entire world.

Two things in Acts 9:32-43 helped prepare Peter for the transition:

- (1) The miracles involving Aeneas and Tabitha in Lydda and Joppa. These two towns included both Jews and Gentiles.
- (2) Peter staying with Simon the tanner. Jews believed tanners to be ceremonially unclean because they worked with the hides of dead animals.

- As a Jew, Peter still had prejudices against Gentiles. In Acts 10:1-8 Cornelius, a Gentile living in Caesarea, received a vision in which an angel commanded him to send for a man named Simon (Peter). Cornelius was described as a devout man who prayed to God. He obeyed the angel and sent men to fetch Peter in Joppa, about 35 miles away.

- Verses 9-15 – Meanwhile, Peter is also given a vision – of a sheet being lowered down with all sorts of animals and birds on it and the Lord commanded Peter to kill and eat. Peter refused! He was pious beyond God's will, saying that those animals were unclean. In verse 15 the Lord removed his blind spot which had caused him to be prejudiced against Gentiles.

- Verses 19-23 - Cornelius' men arrive, tell him of the vision and invite him to come to Caesarea that they may "hear a message from you."(v. 22)

- Verses 24-33 – Peter arrives in Caesarea, and he and Cornelius exchange vision stories.

- Verse 34 – Peter begins his message by saying that he understands now that "...God is not one to show partiality." This is crucial -

Peter gets it! Religious and cultural differences were set aside, and Peter preached the gospel.

- Verses 38-43 – components of Peter’s message: Jesus Christ, verse 38; His death on the cross, verse 39; His resurrection, verses 40-41; Jesus ordered us to preach and He has been appointed Judge, verse 42; the prophets spoke of Him and all who believe in Him receive forgiveness of sins, verse 43.

- Verses 43-48 – the results of Peter’s message: they believed because the Holy Spirit “fell upon” them, they spoke in tongues, exalted God and they were baptized.

- APPLICATIONS:

- (1) We have and are to share a universal gospel – it is for everyone. Matthew 28:19 – make disciples of all nations.
- (2) God does not show partiality and neither should we.
- (3) See others as God sees them.
- (4) Be obedient to share the gospel with anyone and everyone.

May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend)
Lesson Passage: Acts 12:7-19

Essentials:

- Verses 1-5 - Background: In this passage we return to the persecution of the church by the authorities. The Herod mentioned is Herod Agrippa I, who ruled over the NE districts of Galilee, Lysanius in southern Syria, Perea and Judea. He attacked the church and especially the apostles Peter and James. Verse 2 tells us that he had James, John's brother, put to death. Peter was thrown in prison with 16 soldiers guarding him. The church was praying for Peter. Jesus had predicted that both Peter and James would die martyr's deaths in Mark 10:39 and John 21:18-19.
- Verses 6-11 – God answered the prayers of the believers. An angel released him and verse 9 indicates that Peter was in a daze, not sure what was happening. The angel led him out on the street and left him there. Peter knew that it was the power of the Lord that rescued him from Herod.
- Verses 12-17 – It is a testimony to Peter that he went first to the church and didn't flee for his life! He was a marked man, public enemy #1 to Herod and the authorities. But, he was committed to the church and they deserved to know the results of their prayers. We then have a somewhat humorous scene: Peter knocking on the door; Rhoda recognizing Peter's voice but in her excitement, not letting him in; she told the others that Peter was at the door; they didn't believe her; Peter is left still knocking at the front gate! Finally, they let him in and were amazed. Their amazement was partly because of their lack of faith and partly because God so abruptly had answered their prayers. "His angel" in verse 15 could mean that they thought he had died. Peter described to them how the Lord had released him and encouraged them to report to James and the brethren. From this time on, James, Jesus' brother, was the leader of the church in Jerusalem.
- Verses 18-19 – Daybreak brought the news that Peter was gone! Herod searched for him to no avail; those responsible were sent to their deaths and Herod went to Caesarea.

- Aftermath: Herod died after the people called him a god and he did not give glory to the One true God (v. 23), "But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied."(v. 24) Persecution not only did not stamp out the church, but it continued to flourish and grow! Dr. Stanley Toussaint states, "In spite of opposition and persecution the Lord sovereignly prospered the work of His church." [*Bible Knowledge Commentary, New Testament*, page 385]