

Study Notes and Questions for Acts 12 (Part 1)

- **Verse 1** tells us that “...**Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church.**” How do you think these actions affected the early church? How should we respond to persecution today?
- What does **verse 3** tell us about Herod’s character?
- Why was Herod forced to delay Peter’s execution?
- Read **verse 5**. What does “**earnest prayer**” look like?
- Why do you think the believers who were praying for Peter refused to believe that he was really outside knocking at the gate?
- Why do you think believers pray but sometimes without expectation?
- What do you think is the best way to define praying with real faith and expectation?
- Does chapter 12 suggest to you that James was killed because the believers did not pray for him? If so, why? If not, why is this fact important?
- God saved Peter from being executed by Herod (see 12:6–11), but He allowed James to die (see 12:2). What conclusions about persecution, prayer, and deliverance can we draw from this?
- What does chapter 12 show about the heart of God?