

The Early Acts Series: Acts 12



ACTS

Dr. Michael Erickson

Outline of Acts 12

- Acts 12:1-2 The death of James the son of Zebedee.
- Acts 12:3-19 The story of the arrest of Peter and his miraculous deliverance by an angel of the Lord.
- Acts 12:20-25 The judgment of God executed by an angel on Herod.
- Acts 12:25 The introduction of John Mark.

Peter in Acts 12

- The story of the amazing angelic visitation and deliverance of Peter.
- This is the last story in the book of Acts related to Peter.
- Peter's last message in the book of Acts is in chapter 15 dealing with the question about the gentiles.
- Acts 12 is concerning two angels.

Angels

- The number of angels is unlimited.
Hebrews 12:22 Revelation 5:11 Jude 14
- Archangels: Michael and Gabriel.
- Warring angels: Daniel 10:13
- Ministering angels: Hebrews 1:14
- Messengers: Acts 8:26
- Guardian angels: Psalm 91:11-12

Angels

- Angels of judgment: II Sam. 24:16 Acts 12:23
- Angels of worship: Luke 2:13-14
- Elect angels: 1 Timothy 5:21
- Angels are used in the end time harvest.
Matthew 13:39 and 24:31
- The angels are subject to Christ. Ephesians 1:21 and Colossians 1:16 and 2:10

Angels

- Angelic creatures include:
- Cherubim described as “mighty winged creatures” designed to protect the holy things of earth. Genesis 3:24
- Seraphim described as “flaming winged creatures” Isaiah 6:1-4
- The four living creatures. Ezekiel 1
- Female winged angels. Zechariah 5:9

Angels

- Most angels who interact with mankind have the appearance of “man” as “male”.
- In visitations during the times of the patriarchs, the books of Moses and the historical books of Joshua through II Chronicles the appearance is like that of a “man”.
- The book of Job calls angels “sons of God”.

James the son of Zebedee

- After the day of Pentecost it is believed that James went on a missionary journey to the Jews in Spain.
- There is questionable historical evidence, legends and tradition in the country of Spain.
- If he did make this missionary journey his return would be no later than 40 a.d.

John Mark

- Introduced in Acts 12:25
- The cousin to Barnabas. Colossians 4:10
- Accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey but left the team in Acts 13:13.
- Paul calls his leaving the team “deserted” in Acts 15:38

John Mark

- He becomes a point of division between Paul and Barnabas that created 2 teams.
- He later becomes the missionary team of “Barnabas and Mark”.
- The becomes part of Peter’s apostolic team.
1 Peter 5:13
- In 58 a.d. he writes the Gospel of Mark.
The first Gospel.

John Mark

- He was valuable to Paul's apostolic team in the last days of Paul's ministry. II Timothy 4:11
- He established the Coptic church in Egypt.
- "Coptic" the language of the Copts, which represents the final stage of ancient Egyptian. It now survives only as the liturgical language of the Coptic Church.
- In Alexandria he was dragged to death through the streets by idol worshippers.

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