

## CHAPTER 12

**N**OW about that time Herod the King stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote

Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

12 And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of

Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

19 And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from

Judaea to Caesarea, and *there* abode.

20 ¶ And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*.

21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

22 And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*

23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

24 ¶ But the word of God grew and multiplied.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled *their* ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

## CHAPTER 13

**N**OW there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called

Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

4 ¶ So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to *their* minister.

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name *was* Barjesus:

7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also *is called* Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, *thou* child of the devil, *thou* enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord *is* upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

13 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

14 ¶ But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

15 And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, *Ye* men *and* brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with *his* hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

20 And after that he gave *unto them* judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

23 Of this man's seed hath God

according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

26 Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*.

28 And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.

29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took *him* down from the tree, and laid *him* in a sepulchre.

30 But God raised him from the dead:

31 And he was seen many days

of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, *now* no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

35 Wherefore he saith also in another *psalm*, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

38 ¶ Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from

which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

42. And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44 ¶ And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge

yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was

published throughout all the region.

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

## DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 12 describes the close of Peter's ministry as far as the leadership of the early believers is concerned. We do not read of Peter again until he gives his testimony, in support of Paul, in chapter 15.

In chapter 12 we see the power of Satan (verses 1-4); the power of prayer (verses 5-19); the power of God's wrath (verses 20-23); and the power of God's Word (verses 24,25). It is significant to note in this chapter that God delivered Peter, while James was permitted to die. God works in different ways His own. This should be a lesson to us to never question the judgments of our Lord. He was glorified in James' death, just as He was in Peter's deliverance. Isaiah 55:8 tells us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." We should never question the sovereign will of God in our lives.

Chapters 13—28 cover a period in which the Gospel of the grace of God is preached to the Roman world, and local churches are established through the ministry of Paul. Chapter 13 covers somewhat of a new beginning of a new ministry from a new spiritual center—Antioch in Syria. This chapter also covers Paul's first missionary journey and his first missionary sermon. In verse 39 we read, for the first time in Acts, the wonderful word JUSTIFIED. Justified means, "Just as if I had never sinned," and it is the position of standing for everyone who has, by faith, received Jesus Christ. They stand "just as if they had never sinned" before God.

## PROVERB FOR TODAY

"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!" (Proverbs 16:16).

## TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

**ASSIGNMENT 37:** For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

## ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

2348 B.C.

**GOD TOLD NOAH TO LEAVE THE ARK.**

1907

**OKLAHOMA WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.**

Perhaps you know some Christians in Oklahoma for whom you ought to pray today. Maybe there is some preacher brother or some church in Oklahoma whose name you ought to call to God in prayer today.

**DR. LEE ROBERSON'S ANNIVERSARY AT THE HIGHLAND PARK BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Dr. Roberson, of course, is one of the great preachers of this generation or of any generation and one of the great church builders and educators. Dr. Roberson was for many years the pastor of the influential Highland Park Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee, the South's largest church and one of the three largest, probably, in the world today. Today, Dr. Roberson celebrates his anniversary at the Highland Park Baptist Church. Pray for this great church. Pray

for the ministry of this man. Pray for the schools, the Tennessee Temple College and Tennessee Temple Seminary, for the hand of God to rest upon them as they labor there in God's vineyard.

## **ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

### **1873**

W.C. Handy born in Florence, Alabama.

Blacks won three state offices in Mississippi election: Alexander K. Davis, Lieutenant governor; James Hill,

secretary of state; T.W. Cardozo, superintendent of education. Blacks won 55 of the 115 seats in the house and 9 out of 37 seats in the senate, 42 per cent of the total number.

Richard T. Greener, first black graduate of Harvard University, named professor of metaphysics at the University of South Carolina.

### **1972**

National Guard mobilized after officers killed two students during Southern University demonstrations.

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# Hymn of the Week

## “THE CHURCH’S ONE FOUNDATION”

**Samuel John Stone**

Stainless in character, strong in body, steady in nerve, studious in learning and swift to the defense of the gospel are said to be characteristics of one Samuel John Stone, born of Evangelical parents in England in 1839. For his training his father sent him to Charterhouse School in London and to Oxford where he studied in Pembroke College. His college days were marked by his athletic ability. Later he wanted to be a soldier but was hindered by a call of God into the ministry.

His tender heart led him to the down-and-outer, the man on the other side of the tracks. He was a great leader of his people and was beloved by them all.

After serving eight years in a church in Windsor he returned to London to help his father in his parish in East End. His labors here so broke him in health that he was changed to the rectory of All Hallows, London Wall.

Even in these, his later years, he enjoyed a remarkable ministry among the shop hands and office workers of London. As the early, cheaper trains began to stream into the city bringing the workers, Samuel Stone would open his church and have periods of singing and short messages for the people. He then would allow them to sit quietly and visit, sew or read until time for them to begin their day’s work.

He noted that many used the “Apostle’s Creed” in their praying, but that few of them had any comprehension of its meaning. This ignorance, coupled with the blasphemy of the evolutionist and materialist of his day, prompted the writing of one of the truly great hymns used in our churches today, “The Church’s One Foundation.”

*The Church’s one Foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word:  
From Heav’n He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.*

No hymn could be more scriptural. In the first stanza the writer tells that the foundation of Christ’s Church is Himself, that a man must be born of water and the Word, and that Christ gave Himself for His Church and purchased her with His own blood.

The hymn tune was written by Charles Wesley’s grandson, Samuel Wesley. He was a masterful musician, always on the move and beloved by the people of England. He was, at one time, acclaimed as England’s greatest organist.



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# Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

**MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:**

**EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:**

**Divine inspiration evident in that the scriptures correct those who are trapped in error.**

**D. THE ERROR OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HEAVEN**

(Assignment 37)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning,” page xiii near the front of this book.)

(        ) Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

(        ) Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

(        ) Proverbs 30:12

There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

(        ) Matthew 7:13

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

(        ) Matthew 7:14

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.