

July 16, 2023
Acts 11:27-12:5
In Good Times And Bad, Pray

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Vv 27-30 A great season of famine was to come. There was already distress among the brethren in Jerusalem. The believers in Antioch were small and seemingly insignificant in number and ability, nonetheless, they gave sacrificially to fellow believers.

The purpose of **chapter 12** is to confirm Israel's rejection of Jesus as Messiah. This theme is skillfully woven in throughout this book of **Acts** written by doctor Luke.

Herod Agrippa I, grandson of Herod the Great was king over Palestine. It had been about 8 years since the death of Stephen.

Agrippa wanted to placate the Jews and Rome, he built theaters and held games for the Romans and Greeks and slew the Christians to please the Jews. Discounting Judas, James was the first apostle to die and his brother John, probably the last. This is not James the Lord's half-brother. This pleased the Jews. Gleaned from, *A. T. Robertson*

Prophets can be fore-tellers or forth-tellers. These guys were forth-tellers speaking of what was to come. If a person claimed to be a prophet of this type and made a prediction that did not come to pass as stated, he was stoned to death for lying. Agabus predicted a coming famine "through the Holy Spirit." No stones for Agabus!

Praying fervently is from *ektenōs*, like the extreme stretching out of a muscle. This phrase is used to describe how fervently Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane. In that account Jesus' sweat became like drops of blood. The church was praying in a similar fashion over Peter. We all have a lot to pray over fervently!

"God had allowed Stephen and recently also James to die; it might be that Peter's name was to be added to those of these martyrs, and yet God might deliver Peter even now (**21:14**). Human impossibilities are not impossibilities to him." *R. C. H. Lenski*

Application:

While the world spins and toils to gain political prowess and make personal gains, Christians are to walk by faith, trusting the Lord wholly. The battle is the Lord's, He will accomplish what is best for us when we seek Him. Prayer is one of the most powerful and most untapped resources available to Christians, be careful not to neglect it! It is very important to pray, Lord Your will be done like in **Acts 21:14**.