

The Acts of the Holy Spirit

Acts 12:12-13:12

Peter has realized that this is not just another trance-vision and has made his way back to the assembly of the faithful at the beginning of today's reading. What comic reaction follows, and how does Peter end his second-to-last appearance in the book of Acts?

Acts 12:18-24 is perhaps one of the strangest summary-paragraphs in the book. How does Herod respond to the news that Peter has disappeared? What are the results of his fight with the people of Tyre and Sidon? What seems to trigger his sudden demise? What can we make, theologically, of the rationale given in 12:23? What understated sentence in 12:24 wraps up the section?

Taking Acts 12:25 as the beginning of a paragraph, where does the focus of the book move starting in chapter 13? What are Barnabas and Saul doing just before their commission? In what terms does the Spirit put their commission?

Acts 13:4-12 narrates Saul's first foray (during which the name Paul is revealed) out of Antioch. Where does he begin his ministry in Salamis? What sort of figure does he encounter when he traverses Cyprus, and what relationship between Paul, the Proconsul (also named Paul), and Elymas develops? What bizarre event causes Paul the Proconsul to believe?