

## Part II

### **“God Intervenes With Signs & Wonders To Deliver His Persecuted Children!”**

#### Acts 12:1-17

Now about that time, Herod (Agrippa I) the King, stretched out his hand to harass some from the Church. Then he killed James (Son of Zebedee) the Brother of John with the sword. And because he (King Herod Agrippa I) saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread (Passover Feast). So, when He (King Herod Agrippa I) had arrested him (Peter), He (King Herod Agrippa I) put him (Peter) in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him (Peter), intending to bring him before the people after the Passover (Feast). Peter was therefore kept in prison, but **Constant Prayer was Offered to God for him by the Church**. And when Herod (Agrippa I or Herod II) was about to bring him (Peter) out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an Angel of the Lord (Gabriel) stood by him (Peter), and a Light shone in the prison; and He (Archangel Gabriel) struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “*Arise quickly!*” And his (Peter’s) chains fell off his hands. Then the Angel (Gabriel) said to him (Peter), “*Gird yourself and tie on your sandals*”; and so, he did. And He (Archangel Gabriel) said to him (Peter), “*Put on your garment and follow me!*” So, he (Peter) went out and followed Him (Archangel Gabriel), and did not know that what was done by the Angel was real, but thought he was Seeing a Vision. When They (Archangel Gabriel & Peter) were past the first and the second guard posts, They came (after descending seven steps) to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and They (Archangel Gabriel & Peter) went out and went down one street, and immediately the Angel (Gabriel) departed from him (Peter). And when Peter had come to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has Sent His Angel (Gabriel), and has delivered me from the hand of Herod (Agrippa I / Herod II) and from all the expectations of the Jewish People!” So, when he (Peter) had considered this, he came to the House of Mary, the Mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where Many (Disciples) were gathered together **Praying**. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer it (door). When she recognized Peter’s voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in (the house) and announced that Peter stood before the gate. But They (Disciples) said to her, “*You are beside yourself!*” Yet she kept insisting that It (Peter’s Physical Presence) was so (right outside the gate). So, They (Disciples) said, “*It is (merely) his angel (Guardian Angel)!*” Now Peter continued knocking; and when They (Disciples) opened the door (of the gate) and saw him, They (Disciples) were astonished (amazed). But motioning to Them (Disciples) with his hand to keep silent, he (Peter) declared to Them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he (Peter) said, “*Go, tell all these things to James (Brother of Jesus the Head of the Jerusalem Church Council) and to the Brethren (People of the Jerusalem Church)!*” And he (Peter) departed and went to another place. Acts 12:1-17 (NKJV)

**Q: “Where Did We Leave Peter Last Week?”**

**A**

**“Peter was therefore kept in prison,”**

**Acts 12:5a**

**Q:** "How Did The Faithful People of God / The Church Decide To Act To This Persecution & Martyrdom Upon God's People & Especially For Peter's Situation?"  
**A:** They Prayed In Absolute Faith & Complete Trust In God Alone For Peter's Deliverance!  
"But Constant Prayer was Offered to God for Him by the Church."

Acts 12:5b

**Q:** "What Was Peter's Exact Situation Like In Prison?"

A

And when Herod (Agrippa I or Herod II) was about to bring him (Peter) out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Acts 12:6

**Q:** "What Was God's Response To His People's Prayer In Absolute Faith & Complete Trust In HIM Alone For Peter's Deliverance?"

**A:** God Acted In Immediate Faithfulness & Power By Sending

His Archangel Gabriel To Show His Beloved Children A Great Sign & Wonder On The Earth!  
Now behold, an Angel of the Lord (Gabriel) stood by him (Peter), and a Light shone in the prison; and He (Archangel - Gabriel) struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, 'Arise quickly!' And his (Peter's) chains fell off his hands. Acts 12:7

**Q:** "What Two Signs & Wonders Do We See Happening Here In This Story, That God Always Uses To Capture Our Attention & Will, If We Are Truly Watching & Listening For Him To Move In Our Lives?"

**A1:** His Presence Bathed In Eternal Light

**A2:** His Provision To Meet Our Immediate Need

**Q:** "What Does God Want To Do In Our Lives

When We Are Truly Watching, Listening, & Willing To Obey With Our Will & Actions?"

**A1:** He Wants To Remove Anything Holding Us Captive (Physically, Mentally, Spiritually)!

**A2:** He Wants To Remove Any Obstacle Hindering Us From Carry Out His Purpose & Plan For Our Lives!

**A3:** He Wants To Remove Anything Holding Others Lives Captive Through Us As Agents Of True-Life Giving Freedom!

**Q:** "What Else Is Needed From Us Right At The Moment That Real Freedom Is Offered In Our Lives Or In Others Lives, That We Are Ministering To?"

**A:** We Need To Act In True Faith & Trust By Being Disciplined & Obedient!

Then the Angel (Gabriel) said to him (Peter), "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so, he did. And He (Archangel Gabriel) said to him (Peter), "Put on your garment and follow me!"

Acts 12:8

**Here Again Peter's Word From God In His First Epistle To Us – The Church**

"Therefore, Gird Up the Loins of your Mind, be Sober, and Rest your Hope Fully upon the Grace that is to be brought to you at the Revelation of Jesus Christ; as Obedient Children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He Who Called you Is Holy, you also be Holy In ALL your Conduct, because it is written, 'Be Holy, For I AM Holy!' And if you Call on the Father, Who Without Partiality Judges According to Each One's Work, Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but (you were redeemed) with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a Lamb Without Blemish and Without Spot. He indeed was Foreordained before the Foundation of the World, but was Manifest in these Last Times for you, who through Him Believe in God (Father), Who (Spirit of God) Raised Him (Jesus Christ) from the Dead & Gave Him Glory, so that your Faith and Hope are in God (Alone)!" 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:13-21 (NKJV)

**NOTE**

God Wants Us To Respond In Perfect Obedience,  
Even When We Do Not Fully Understand His Knowledge, Logic, Or Reasons!  
So, *he (Peter) went out and followed Him (Archangel Gabriel), and did not know that what was done by the Angel was real, but thought he was Seeing a Vision.*

Acts 12:9

**NOTE**

When God Sees Us Giving All To Obey His Will & Plan  
He Delivers Us From Evil & Peril For His Name's Sake & Our Good!

**Extra Biblical Proof From Archeology**

Also, The Alternate Text That Was Proven Archeological Correct Later

**"after descending seven steps"**

When *They (Archangel Gabriel & Peter) were past the first and the second guard posts, they came (after descending seven steps) to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to Them of its own accord; and They (Archangel Gabriel & Peter) went out and went down one street, and immediately the Angel (Gabriel) departed from him (Peter).*

Acts 12:10

**NOTE**

God Often Makes What Seems To Be At First Unclear & Unsure In Our Minds & Hearts

Come Into Complete Focus & Gives Us A Full Understanding,

After We First Act In Faith On His Commands & Provisions For Us!

And when *Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has Sent His Angel (Gabriel), and has delivered me from the hand of Herod (Agrippa I / Herod II) and from all the expectations of the Jewish People!"*

Acts 12:11

So, when *he (Peter) had considered this, he came to the House of Mary, the Mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where Many (Disciples) were gathered together Praying.*

Acts 12:12

**NOTE**

We Often Pray Expecting God To Answer Us,

& When He Does, We Act In Complete Joy & Exuberance!

And as *Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer it (door). When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in (the house) and announced that Peter stood before the gate.*

Acts 12:13-14

**Q: "Why Do We As God's Dearly Beloved People**

**So Often Act In Total Unbelief That God Has Indeed Answered Our Prayers,**

**When We Prayed In Such Faith, Trust, & Desperation In The First Place?"**

But *They (Disciples) said to her, 'You are beside yourself!' Yet she kept insisting that It (Peter's Physical Presence) was so (right outside the gate).*

Acts 12:15a

**Q: "Why Do We As God's Dearly Beloved People**

**So Often Make So-Called Logical Or Rational Physical World Arguments**

**To Dismiss The Supernatural Acts Of God In The Form Of Miracles (Signs & Wonders)?"**

**"So, They (Disciples) said, "It is (merely) his angel (Guardian Angel)!"**

Acts 12:15b

**Q: "Why Do We As God's Dearly Beloved People So Often Act Totally Astonished & Amazed  
When God Moves Heaven & Earth To Show Us His Care, Love, Mercy, & Protection?"**

Now *Peter continued knocking; and when They (Disciples) opened the door (to the gate) and saw him, They (Disciples) were astonished (amazed).*

Acts 12:16

**Q: "How Do God's Chosen Leaders In The Church Act,  
When God's People Do Not Act In Faith & Obedience As They Should?"**

**A: They Respond In Three Important Ways!**

**A1: They Continue To Act, Mentor, & Teach God's Truths In Grace & Love!**

But motioning to **Them (Disciples)** with his hand to keep silent, **he (Peter)** declared to **Them** how the **Lord** had brought him out of the prison. **Acts 12:17a**

**A2: They Continue To Provide Sound Vision, Instruction, & Give Godly Guidance**

To God's People, In Order To Inspire Them Into A Deeper Faith & Obedience In Action!

And **he (Peter)** said, "**Go, tell all these things to James (Brother of Jesus the Head of the Jerusalem Church Council) and to the Brethren (People of the Jerusalem Church)!**"

**Acts 12:17b**

**A3: They Continue To Provide Protection & Care  
For God's People Sheltering Them From Evil Or Harm!**

**"And he (Peter) departed and went to another place."**

**Acts 12:17c**

**Commentary**

**Peter Cannot Stay With The Church As Their Pastor & Leader,  
While Being Hunted By Religious & Government Authorities  
Because He Would Endanger Everyone's Well Being  
And The Future Of God's Church & Its Witness!**

***"Let Us As The People of God Continue to Pray in All Faith,  
Fully Trusting in God to Provide & Deliver Us  
From Those Who Would Persecute & Threaten Us!"***

***"Let Us As The People of God Continue to Testify & Witness  
To Our God's Deliverance, Miracles, Protection, & Salvation,  
For All Who Will In Faith Repent of Their Sins  
& Rest In His Grace, Love, & Mercy!"***