

Acts 12:1-19 – 2026 WHEN GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS - Herod's Violence to the Church; Peter Freed From Prison!

9/19/26 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com <https://www.ptwente.com>

- Last Week: *[11:27-30] And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. [28] Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. [29] Then (about 12 years after church inception) the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. [30] This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.*

ACTS 12:1-19: – James Killed and Peter Imprisoned

- *[1] Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. [2] Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. [3] And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. [4] So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads (sixteen) of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. [5] Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant (earnest) prayer was offered to God for him by the church.*

Peter Is Rescued

- *[6] And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.*
- *[7] Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. [8] Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." [9] So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. [10] When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. [11] And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people." [12] So, when he had considered this, 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 girl named Rhoda came to answer. [14] When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. [15] But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." [16] Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. [17] But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place (of*

greater safety; next place found in Antioch). [18] *Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter. [19] But when Herod had searched for him and not found him, he examined the guards and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.*

SUMMARY:

- **We have been seeing one marvelous conversion after another** – the three thousand on the Day of Pentecost, the Samaritans, the Ethiopian eunuch, Saul of Tarsus, the Gentile centurion Cornelius and the mixed crowd in Antioch. The Word of God was spreading.
- **Now we see a serious setback in the death of James and the imprisonment of Peter**, both of whom were apostles and leaders of the Jerusalem church. Herod Agrippa I was the tyrant responsible for this double assault upon the work of God. It must have seemed like a time of grave crisis, but we also the marvelous rescue of Peter by the intervention of God. Thus the destructive power of Herod and the saving power of God are contrasted. Indeed throughout church history the pendulum has swung between expansion and opposition, growth and shrinkage, advance and retreat, although the assurance that even the powers of death and hell will never prevail against Christ's church, since it is built securely on the rock, Jesus Christ!
- **HEROD THE KING! – HEROD AGRIPPA 1** - Herod the king was Herod Agrippa 1. He was the grandson of Herod the Great. He shared some of his grandfather's characteristics and after the emperors Caligula and Claudius had given him successive portions of Palestinian territory, his kingdom was as extensive as his grandfather's
- **How important prayer is! We see here how God answers prayer! Do we pray with expectancy?**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (1Ti 2:1-4) *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. [3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE) – Chris Tomlin (4:27)

Amazing grace/ How sweet the sound/ That saved a wretch like me/ I once was lost, but now I'm found/ Was blind, but now I see/ 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear/ And grace my fears relieved/ How precious did that grace appear/ The hour I first believed

Chorus: *My chains are gone/ I've been set free/ My God, my Savior has ransomed me/ And like a flood His mercy reigns/ Unending love, amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me/ His word my hope secures/ He will my shield and portion be/ As long as life endures (Chorus - 2x)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow/ The sun forbear to shine/ But God, who called me here below/ Will be forever mine/ Will be forever mine/ You are forever mine