

Read Acts 12:1-10

1 About that time King Herod Agrippa began to persecute some believers in the church. **2** He had the apostle James (John's brother) killed with a sword.

3 When Herod saw how much this pleased the Jewish people, he also arrested Peter. (This took place during the Passover celebration.)

4 Then he imprisoned him, placing him under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter out for public trial after the Passover.

5 But while Peter was in prison, the church prayed very earnestly for him.

6 The night before Peter was to be placed on trial, he was asleep, fastened with two chains between two soldiers. Others stood guard at the prison gate.

7 Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel struck him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists.

8 Then the angel told him, "Get dressed and put on your sandals." And he did. "Now put on your coat and follow me," the angel ordered.

9 So Peter left the cell, following the angel. But all the time he thought it was a vision. He didn't realize it was actually happening.

10 They passed the first and second guard posts and came to the iron gate leading to the city, and this opened for them all by itself. So, they passed through and started walking down the street, and then the angel suddenly left him.

At this time, King Herod was ruling as the Roman-appointed king over the Jews. What did he do (vv. 1-2)? He persecuted the Christians. And he had the apostle James killed.

What did the Jews think of what Herod did (v. 3)? They thought it was a good thing.

What did Herod do next (vv. 3-4)? He arrested Peter and put him in jail with lots of guards watching him. Herod was going to take Peter to trial the next day.

What was the church doing at this time (v. 5)? Praying a lot for Peter.

What was Peter doing the night before his trial (v. 6)? Sleeping **What does that tell us about Peter?** He wasn't worried about going to trial the next day. He trusted in God to take care of him.

Where were his guards. Two of them were chained to him. And others were watching at the prison gate. **Why were there so many guards?** They wanted to make sure that Peter didn't escape.

Who appeared in Peter's jail cell (v. 7)? An angel.

What did the angel say and do (vv. 7-8)? He woke Peter up. And he made the chains fall off Peter's wrists. Then he told him to get dressed and follow him. **Did the guards who were chained to Peter wake up?** No

What did Peter think about all this (v. 9)? He wasn't quite sure what was going on. He thought he was having a vision. He didn't realize all this was actually happening.

What happened when they left the cell (v. 10)? They walked right past the guards and through the gate and down the street. Then the angel left Peter. **Did the guards see them?** No