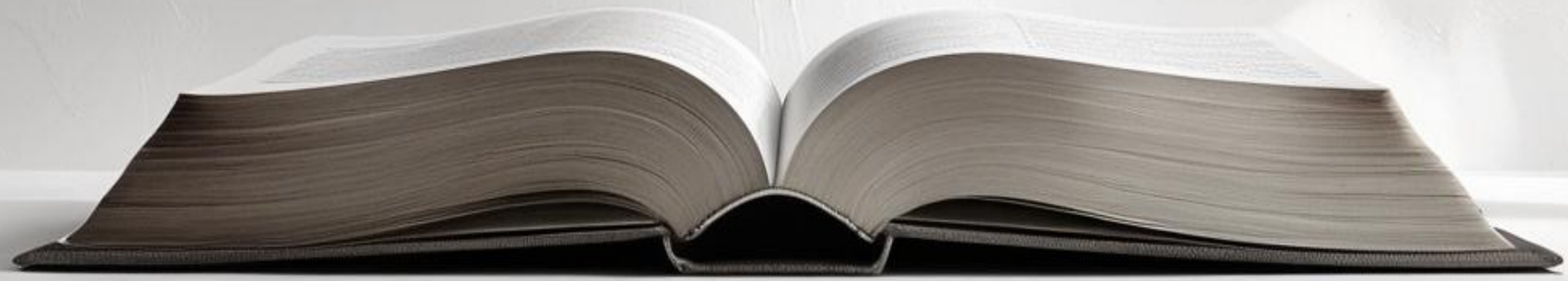


[1]When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we
were like those who dreamed. [2]Our mouths were
filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord
has done great things for them.” [3]The Lord has
done great things for us, and we are filled with
joy.

Psalm 126:1–3 (NIV)

The Dream of The Miraculous



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.

Acts 12:1–5 (NLT)

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.
11 Peter finally came to his senses. “It’s really true!” he said. “The Lord
has sent his angel and saved me from Herod and from what the Jewish
leaders had planned to do to me!”

Acts 12:6–11 (NLT)

12 When he realized this, he went to the home of Mary, the mother of
John Mark, where many were gathered for prayer. 13 He knocked at the
door in the gate, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to open it.
14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead
of opening the door, she ran back inside and told everyone, "Peter is
standing at the door!" 15 "You're out of your mind!" they said. When she
insisted, they decided, "It must be his angel."
16 Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking. When they finally opened the
door and saw him, they were amazed. 17 He motioned for them to quiet
down and told them how the Lord had led him out of prison. "Tell James
and the other brothers what happened," he said. And then he went to
another place.
18 At dawn there was a great commotion among the soldiers about what
had happened to Peter. 19 Herod Agrippa ordered a thorough search for
him. When he couldn't be found, Herod interrogated the guards and
sentenced them to death. Afterward Herod left Judea to stay in
Caesarea for a while.