

# Sent Out

A SERIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

**The Wisdom of God - Acts 12:1-24**

# Crisis within the Church

*“It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.” Acts 12:1-4 NIV*

# God's Purpose for the Church

*"Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, he graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ. I was chosen to explain to everyone this mysterious plan that God, the Creator of all things, had kept secret from the beginning.*

*God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Eph 3:8-11 NLT

# God's Purpose for the Church

We often see the church from a human perspective:

- *A building* instead of a *people*
- *A Sunday service* instead of a life lived *every day*
- *Going* to church instead of *Being* the church

# God's Wisdom in Prayer



# God's Wisdom in Prayer

*“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.” Acts 12:5 NIV*

# God's Wisdom in Prayer

## Why do we pray?

- x To manipulate/control God
- x To get what we want
- x Makes us feel better
- x Things go our way more often when we pray

# God's Wisdom in Prayer

## Why do we pray?

- ✓ To reveal the manifold wisdom of God to the powers and authorities in the heavenly realms (Eph 3:10)



# NEITHER BOMB NOR BULLET

**BENJAMIN KWASHI** THE ARCHBISHOP  
THEY JUST COULDN'T KILL



# God's Wisdom in Prayer

One of our Top 5 Priorities:

- Posture of Prayer and Dependence on God

## Acts 12:6-7 NIV

*<sup>6</sup> The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.*

## Acts 12:8-10 NIV

*<sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. <sup>9</sup> Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.*

## Acts 12:11 NIV

*<sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.”*

## Acts 12:12-14 NIV

*<sup>12</sup> When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. <sup>13</sup> Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"*

## Acts 12:15-17 NIV

*<sup>15</sup> “You’re out of your mind,” they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.”*

*<sup>16</sup> But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. <sup>17</sup> Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison.*

# Gods' Wisdom Through Children





# Gods' Wisdom Through Children

Herod vs Rhoda

# Gods' Wisdom Through Children

*<sup>21</sup> On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup> They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man." <sup>23</sup> Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.*

*<sup>24</sup> But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.*

Acts 12:21-24 NIV

# The Wisdom of God

*“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” Eph 3:10 NIV*



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