WITNESSED

THE WITNESS OF THE WORD

Acts 12 (pg. 978)








1) PERSECUTION (1-5)

[1]About that time King Herod violently attacked
some who belonged to the church, [2]and he
executed James, John's brother, with the sword.
[3]When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he
proceeded to arrest Peter too, during the Festival
of Unleavened Bread. [4]After the arrest, he put
him in prison and assigned four squads of four
soldiers each to guard him, intending to bring him
out to the people after the Passover. [5]So Peter was
kept in prison, but the church was praying
fervently to God for him.

1) PERSECUTION (1-5)

2) PRISON (6-17)

6 When Herod was about to bring him out for
trial, that very night Peter, bound with two
chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while
the sentries in front of the door guarded the
prison. 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared,
and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the
side, he woke him up and said, "Quick, get up!"
And the chains fell off his wrists. 8 "Get dressed,"
the angel told him, "and put on your sandals." And
he did. "Wrap your cloak around you," he told
him, "and follow me."

9 So he went out and followed, and he did not
know that what the angel did was really
happening, but he thought he was seeing a vision.
10 After they passed the first and second guards,
they came to the iron gate that leads into the city,
which opened to them by itself. They went
outside and passed one street, and suddenly the
angel left him.

[11]When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I
know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel
and rescued me from Herod’s grasp and from all
that the Jewish people expected.” [12]As soon as he
realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the
mother of John who was called Mark, where
many had assembled and were praying. [13]He
knocked at the door of the outer gate, and a
servant named Rhoda came to answer.

14 She recognized Peter's voice, and because of her
joy, she did not open the gate but ran in and
announced that Peter was standing at the outer
gate. 15 "You're out of your mind!" they told her.
But she kept insisting that it was true, and they
said, "It's his angel." 16 Peter, however, kept on
knocking, and when they opened the door and
saw him, they were amazed.

17 Motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. “Tell these things to James and the brothers,” he said, and he left and went to another place.

1) PERSECUTION (1-5)

2) PRISON (6-17)

3) “PEACE” (18-23)

18 At daylight, there was a great commotion
among the soldiers as to what had become of
Peter. 19 After Herod had searched and did not find
him, he interrogated the guards and ordered their
execution. Then Herod went down from Judea to
Caesarea and stayed there.


0 20 40 mi
0 20 40 60 km
Mediterranean Sea
Byblos
Heliopolis
Chalcis
Berytus
ABILENE
Abila
Damascus
Sidon
SYRIA
Caesarea Philippi
Tyre
Gischala
TRACHONITIS
Ptolemais
GALILEE
Julias
Sea of Galilee
Tiberias
Sepphoris
Gadara
Caesarea
Scythopolis
DECAPOLIS
Sebaste (Samaria)
Gerasa
SAMARIA
PEREA
Antipatris
Joppa
Philadelphia
Lydda
Jericho
Jerusalem
Esbus
JUDEA
NABATEA
Dead Sea
Hebron
Gaza
IDUMEA
Beersheba
Kingdom of Agrippa I after A.D. 41
Other territory of the Roman Empire

20 Herod had been very angry with the people of
Tyre and Sidon. Together they presented
themselves before him. After winning over
Blastus, who was in charge of the king's bedroom,
they asked for peace, because their country was
supplied with food from the king's country.

21 On an appointed day, dressed in royal robes and
seated on the throne, Herod delivered a speech to
them. 22 The assembled people began to shout, “It’s
the voice of a god and not of a man! ” 23 At once an
angel of the Lord struck him because he did not
give the glory to God, and he was eaten by worms
and died.

“On the second day of which shows he put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a contexture truly wonderful, and came into the theatre early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment being illuminated by the fresh reflection of the sun’s rays upon it, shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those that looked intently upon him; and presently his flatterers cried out, one from one place, and another from another (though not for his good), that he was a god.”

JOSEPHUS

1) PERSECUTION (1-5)

2) PRISON (6-17)

3) “PEACE” (18-23)

4) PROSPERITY (24-25)

[24]But the word of God spread and multiplied.
[25]After they had completed their relief mission,
Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem, taking
along John who was called Mark.

[27]In those days some prophets came down from
Jerusalem to Antioch. [28]One of them, named
Agabus, stood up and predicted by the Spirit that
there would be a severe famine throughout the
Roman world. This took place during the reign of
Claudius. [29]Each of the disciples, according to his
ability, determined to send relief to the brothers
and sisters who lived in Judea. [30]They did this,
sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and
Saul.

“Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.”

SØREN KIERKEGAARD

From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.

ACTS 17:26

“God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knows.”

TIM KELLER

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