

Acts 12

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Acts 12:1-5 – James Killed And Peter Imprisoned

- Herod was a King in Jerusalem
- Herod means Son of a hero
- Herod the Great – Matt. 2, Herod Antipas – Mark 6, Herod Agrippa 1- Acts 12
- Herod Agrippa 1 is the **grandson** of Herod the Great and nephew of Herod Antipas and served as a king in Judea from AD 41 to 44
- Herod was hated by the people and was persecuting the Church to please the Jews and also show them his loyalty to the traditions of his fathers
- James gets killed by a sword and the people in the crowd are happy
- Herod saw the pleased **crowd** and arrested Peter – Acts 12:3
- This was the week before the Passover called unleavened bread
- Executions are not permitted over the Passover so Peter was in jail until the Passover was done
- Herod's plan was to **kill** Peter as well
- Peter had 4 people on 4 different shifts
- This was likely because of his escape from prison before – Acts 5:18-42
- Peter had 2 guards handcuffed to either side of him and 2 guarding the door
- The Church **prays** for Peter – Acts 12:6

Acts 12:6-19 – Peter Broke Out of Prison

- Peter has been in prison for a while and the date of death is approaching
- Peter while under intense surveillance and was asleep
- The Church was **still** praying for Peter
- Peter was woken up by an angel of the Lord
- The angel told Peter to get up fast and to dress himself and he did
- The Angel then led Peter out of the prison
- Peter wasn't sure if he was seeing things or if he was actually free—Acts 12:9
- Peter gets led through all the gates past all the security and then the Angel of the Lord **leaves** Peter

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- Peter didn't get instructions or a map but got given what he needed which was freedom
- After Peter was out he realized what had happened and what God had done for him – Acts 12:11
- Peter goes to John's mom's house whose name was Mary
- There Peter sees believers **gathered** together and praying
- A girl named Rhoda heard Peter at the door and reported what he had seen
- We don't know anything else about Rhoda except for this moment
- She shares the news with the rest of the house and they don't believe her
- Peter didn't leave and when they opened the door they were surprised
- Peter shared exactly what the Lord had done to free him from Herod's hand
- Peter then asked for the news to be shared with disciples and believers
- Then Peter departs to and **leaves** to go elsewhere – Acts 12:17
- In the morning the soldiers were unsure how Peter escaped
- Herod was so pleased with the soldiers he decided to kill them
- Herod didn't take this lightly

Acts 12:20-25 – Herod's Death

- Herod had to be a good speaker and have a way with words
- People were shouting that he had a voice of **god**
- God does not take other gods lightly – Exodus 20:3-5
- Next Herod got struck dead and he was eaten by worms
- To get eaten by worms meant that no one would have wanted to touch his dead body
- This is similar to Uzzah and the ark of the covenant – 2 Samuel 6:7
- Herod's death was **sudden** and would have sent a message to the people
- God's word multiplied and continued to grow despite persecution
- The Jews heard the gospel first and then the Gentiles – Romans 1:16
- The focus shifts from the Jews to the Gentiles for the rest of the book of Acts
- Saul and Barnabas returned from Jerusalem
- They brought John Mark with them as they returned