

Peter's Miraculous Escape

Acts 12:1-24

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Herod Agrippa executed James, the brother of John. Then during Passover he arrested Peter and put him in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring Peter to public trial after Passover. The church was earnestly praying for him.

The night before his trial, Peter was asleep in his cell, chained between two guards. Suddenly there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel appeared. "Peter, get up and follow me." The chains fell off Peter's wrists. He got up and followed the angel out of the prison right passed all the guards. The iron gate of the prison opened of its own accord, and they went out into the city. Then the angel disappeared.

Until this moment Peter had thought he was seeing a vision; now he realized it was really happening. He went to the home of John Mark, where some believers had gathered to pray. He knocked, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. She recognized Peter's voice and was so happy she ran back in without opening the door. She told everyone, "Peter is outside!"

They didn't believe her. But Peter kept knocking and calling out until they let him in. He explained what had just happened to him, and then he left.

In the morning, after a thorough search was made for Peter, Herod had the guards executed. Then he went to stay in his palace at Caesarea on the Sea.

One day Herod made a speech. The people shouted, "This is the voice of a god." Herod accepted their praise instead of giving glory to God, so an angel of the Lord struck him down. He was eaten by worms and died.