

Notes - Book of Acts Study, Part 51 – Wednesday, January 27, 2021

Acts 12:1-11

Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison

¹ It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. ² He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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 11:21

²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:24

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

The enemy has no intention of letting the church flourish.

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

We are at war.

The enemy rages when God blesses.

2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Matthew 11:12

¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it.

John 16:33

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

We are not called to fight defensively, we are called to fight offensively.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ ...and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

What do you do when it looks like the enemy is winning?

What we do in a setback says more about our faith than anything we profess on Sunday morning!

James 5:16

¹⁶ ...The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

What would happen in your life with fervent prayer?