

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### Acts 12

#### Peter's Escape from Prison

##### Overview

#### 1. Herod Persecutes the Church: (Verses 1-4)

With the spreading and growing influence of the gospel, Herod begins to persecute the Church. He kills James the brother of John and because James' death so pleases the Jews, he captures and imprisons Peter. He plans to also put Peter to death after the days of unleavened bread have passed.

#### 2. Peter Miraculously Freed: (Verses 5-17)

As the church in Antioch prays without ceasing for Peter, an angel appears and the chains that bound Peter fall from his wrists. The angel instructs Peter to follow him, which he does. Peter eventually finds himself in the street outside the gates of the prison. He immediately goes to the house of Mary, where the believers are praying.

#### 3. Response to Peter's Escape: (Verses 18-20)

Herod is extremely angered by Peter's escape and searches for him unsuccessfully. After questioning the keepers in the prison about Peter's disappearance, Herod executes all of the guards on watch when Peter walked out of the prison.

#### 5. The Death of Herod: (Verses 21-22)

Herod gives a speech and the audience heralds him as being a god. Because Herod did not give glory to God for his position, an angel of God strikes him dead.

## 6. The Gospel Continues to Spread: (Verses 24-25)

Neither the death of James nor the imprisonment of Peter hinders the spreading of the Gospel.

The Challenge of Chapter Twelve:

We should never fear the world's attitude toward the spreading of the gospel. If persecution comes, imprisonment, or even faced with the possibility of death for the gospel's sake, we can experience God's divine peace while trusting in His ability to deliver us supernaturally. The gospel cannot and will not be stopped and Jesus will return to establish His kingdom in the earth.