

{44} Acts

King James Version

(29) Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:
 (30) Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Chapter 12

(1) Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.
 (2) And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
 (3) And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)
 (4) And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.
 (5) Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.
 (6) And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.
 (7) And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

King James Paraphrase

(29) Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers who lived in Judaea:
 (30) Which they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Chapter 12

(1) Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to harass certain of the church.
 (2) And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
 (3) And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (These were the days of Unleavened Bread.^a)
 (4) And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to sixteen soldiers^b to keep him; intending after Easter^c to bring him forth to the people.
 (5) Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing by the church to God for him.
 (6) And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.
 (7) And the Angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shone in the prison: and He struck Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, **Get up quickly.** And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

12:3a - days of Unleavened Bread - seven days beginning with Passover – Lev. 23:5-6
 12:4b - quaternions - four soldiers, so 4 quaternions = 16 soldiers
 12:4c - Easter - modern translations incorrectly say Passover, but if it is the days of Unleavened Bread [v. 3], Passover has already passed. – this is one of the places where the King James version varies from the Greek Received Text which also says “Passover” rather than “Easter” – the verse could read: “after the Passover holidays” but the King James version solves this problem by using the word “Easter”.

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(8) And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

(9) And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

(10) When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

(11) And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

(12) And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

(13) And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

(14) And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

(15) And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

(8) And the Angel said to him, **Put your belt on, and tie your sandals. And he did so.** And He said to him, **Put your coat on and follow Me.**

(9) And he went out, and followed Him; and did not know that what the Angel was doing was real; but he thought he was seeing a vision.

(10) When they were past the first and the second ward, they came to the iron gate that lead to the city; which opened to them of its own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and immediately the Angel left him.

(11) And when Peter had come to himself, he said, Now I know of a certainty, that the Lord had sent His Angel, and has delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

(12) And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

(13) And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a young girl came to answer the door, named Rhoda.

(14) And when she recognized Peter's voice, she did not open the gate because of gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

(15) And they said to her, You are mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was so. Then they said, It is his angel.

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(16) But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished.

(17) But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

(18) Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

(19) And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and *there* abode.

(20) And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*.

(21) And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

(22) And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*

(23) And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

(16) But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened *the door*, and saw him, they were astonished^d.

(17) But he, motioning to them with the hand to hold their peace, declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go tell these things to James, and to the brothers. And he departed, and went into another place.

(18) Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what had become of Peter.

(19) And when Herod had sought for him, and did not find him, he examined the keepers, and commanded that *they* should be put to death. And he went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed *there*.

(20) And Herod was highly displeased with those of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*.

(21) And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made a speech to them.

(22) And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.*

(23) And immediately the Angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give God the glory: and he was eaten by worms, and gave up the spirit {died}.

12:16d – they had been praying for him for days, but were astonished at how God had answered their prayers