

GOD GETS THE GLORY

Acts 12:1-25

INTRODUCTION

Acts 12 vividly demonstrates the central truth that God's sovereignty and power surpass all earthly authorities and opposition. Despite the persecution and threats faced by the early church, God intervenes miraculously to deliver His people, uphold His divine purposes, and bring justice to bear in his own timing and in his own way.

THIS WEEK:

Discover this week how God ensures that no political or worldly power can ultimately thwart his will or disrupt the advancement of His kingdom.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

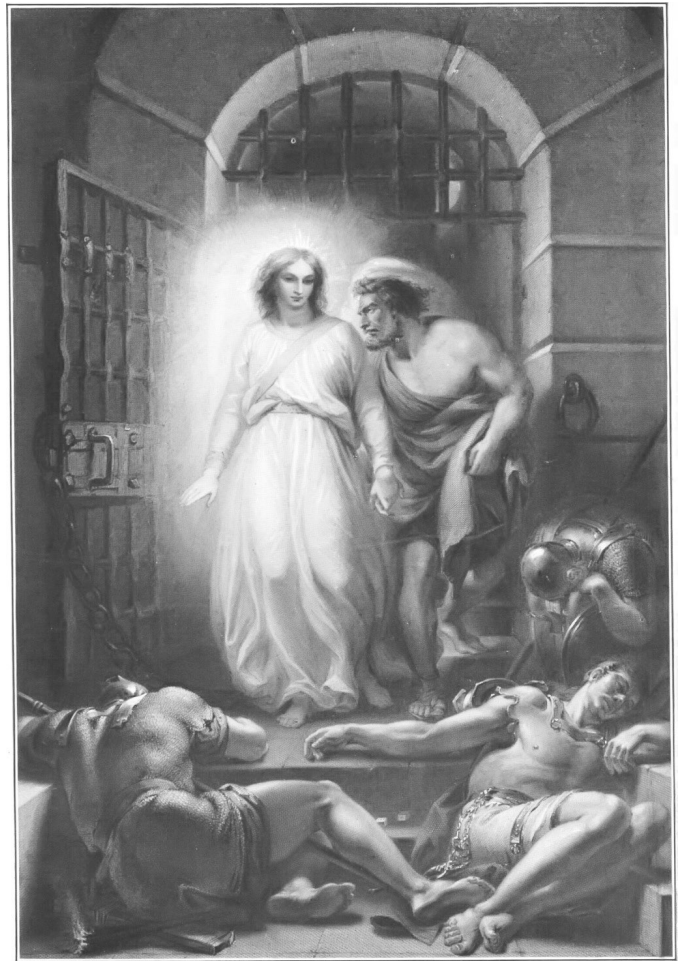
Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 12:1-25 and then answering the following questions:

1. What significant event opens the chapter in Acts 12?
2. What were the church members doing while Peter was in prison?
3. Describe how Peter was freed from prison.
4. What happened to Herod at the end of the chapter?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. Describe how God's dealings with Herod reflect what Psa 2:1-4, Dan 2:20-21, 4:34-35, and Rev. 17:12-14 teach about the relationship between God and earthly rulers?
6. Examine Exo 14:15-3, 1 Sam 7:5-11, 2 Ch 20:1-30, Acts 1:14, Acts 4:24-31. What conclusions about prayer do you glean from these passages?
7. How does Peter's miraculous release from prison resemble other biblical deliverances? (See Daniel 3:19-27, Acts 5:19-20)?
8. What does James's martyrdom and Peter's release reveal about God? (See Romans 13:1, Daniel 2:21)



Peter Freed by the Angel, Horne, Charles, and Julius Bewer. *The Bible and Its Story: Acts-Epistles, Apostles to Revelation*. Vol. 10. New York, NY: Francis R. Niglutsch, 1910.

APPLICATION *Why does it matter?*

Now that you know what the passage means, think through the various ways it may apply to your life or the lives of others:

9. What is disturbing to you in this passage? What is comforting to you?

10. What should this passage reveal to the Church about God's justice?
11. Describe a time when God's answer to prayer seemed delayed or different than expected, like with James and Peter? How did that affect your faith?
12. Describe a time when collective prayer made a difference in your life or in the life of someone you know. What happened? What did you learn about that experience?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?