### Acts

## Chapter 12

1This all happened about the same time that King Herod had started persecuting many of those in the congregation [at This all happened about the same time that King Herod had started persecuting many of those in the congregation [at <span class="placename">JeruSalemThis all happened about the same time that King Herod had started persecuting many of those in the congregation [at <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>]; 2for he did away with James (John’s brother) with a sword.  
  
3And when he saw how much this pleased the Jews, during the celebration of No Fermentation, he also arrested Peter 4and threw him in jail, assigning four shifts of four soldiers to guard him, because he planned to put him on [trial] before the people after the Passover.  
  
5Well while Peter was in jail, the congregation prayed to God intensely on his behalf.  
  
6And on the night before Herod planned to produce him, he had Peter bound with two chains, he forced him to sleep between two soldiers, and guards were posted at all the doors.  
  
7But then, {Look!} Jehovah’s&nbsp;messenger appeared and he lit up the whole cell!  
  
Then he tapped Peter on the side and woke him up, saying:  
  
 ‘Get up… Now!’  
  
And at that, the chains just fell off his hands!  
  
8Then the messenger said to him:  
  
 ‘Get dressed and tie on your sandals.’  
  
...which Peter did.  
  
Then [the messenger] told him:  
  
 ‘Now, wrap yourself up in your robe and follow me!’  
  
9So [Peter] left, following [the messenger]...  
  
However, he wasn’t really sure of what was happening, because, although [he knew that] the messenger was real, he also thought that he was just seeing a vision.  
  
10Well, they walked past the first guard, then the second, and when they got to the iron gate that leads into the city, it opened by itself!  
  
Then, after they got out and started down a street, the messenger suddenly left him. 11And at that, Peter finally came to his senses and he said:  
  
 ‘Now I really know that Jehovah sent his messenger and saved me from the hands of Herod and from everything that the Jews had planned to do [to me].’  
  
12Then, after [taking a moment] to collect himself, from there he went to the house of Mary the mother of John (who was called Mark), where several had gathered to pray. 13Now, when he knocked at the gate, a servant girl named Rhoda came. 14Then when she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so excited that she failed to open the gate… She just ran inside and told everyone that Peter was standing outside.  
  
15Well, everyone there said that she had to be crazy, but she kept insisting.  
  
So they said:  
  
 ‘Perhaps it’s [just] his messenger.’  
  
16Meanwhile, Peter was still just standing outside [the gate] and knocking.  
  
Then when they opened [the gate] and saw that it really was [Peter], everyone was astonished! 17But he motioned with his hand for them to be quiet, and he told them exactly how the Lord had freed him from But he motioned with his hand for them to be quiet, and he told them exactly how the Lord had freed him from <span class="placename">the jailBut he motioned with his hand for them to be quiet, and he told them exactly how the Lord had freed him from <span class="placename">the jail</span>.  
  
Then he said:  
  
 ‘Tell James and the other brothers what has happened.’  
  
And with that, he left and traveled on to another place.  
  
18Needless to say, the next day there was quite a stir among the soldiers over what had become of Peter! 19Herod had them search for him, and when they couldn’t find him, he interrogated the guards and gave orders to have them arrested.  
  
However, [Peter] had left However, [Peter] had left <span class="placename">JudeaHowever, [Peter] had left <span class="placename">Judea</span> and traveled to However, [Peter] had left <span class="placename">Judea</span> and traveled to <span class="placename">CaesareaHowever, [Peter] had left <span class="placename">Judea</span> and traveled to <span class="placename">Caesarea</span>, where he spent quite a bit of time after that.  
  
  
  
20Well, back then, [Herod] had become extremely angry with the people of Well, back then, [Herod] had become extremely angry with the people of <span class="placename">TyreWell, back then, [Herod] had become extremely angry with the people of <span class="placename">Tyre</span> and Well, back then, [Herod] had become extremely angry with the people of <span class="placename">Tyre</span> and <span class="placename">SidonWell, back then, [Herod] had become extremely angry with the people of <span class="placename">Tyre</span> and <span class="placename">Sidon</span>. And as a result, [people from there] went to the Royal Eunuch Blastus to convince him to ask [Herod] for peace, since [Herod] had been supplying their country with food [during the famine, c. 45 CE].  
  
21Then there came a day when Herod dressed himself up in his royal clothes and he sat down on his judgment seat to give a public lecture. 22But at that, the crowd that was assembled started shouting:  
  
 ‘It’s a god’s voice, not a man’s!’  
  
23And instantly, a messenger of Jehovah struck him, because he didn’t give glory to God; so he became eaten up with worms and stopped breathing.  
  
  
  
24Meanwhile, during this entire period, the word of the Lord kept on growing and spreading.  
  
25As for BarNabas and Saul, after they’d finished delivering relief supplies to As for BarNabas and Saul, after they’d finished delivering relief supplies to <span class="placename">JeruSalemAs for BarNabas and Saul, after they’d finished delivering relief supplies to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>, they returned [to As for BarNabas and Saul, after they’d finished delivering relief supplies to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>, they returned [to <span class="placename">AntiOchAs for BarNabas and Saul, after they’d finished delivering relief supplies to <span class="placename">JeruSalem</span>, they returned [to <span class="placename">AntiOch</span>]. And this time they took John (the one called Mark) along with them.