

Acts 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. The progressive obstacles—two wards, iron gate—each supernaturally overcome, demonstrate complete divine control while gate opening 'of its own accord' emphasizes miracle's nature.

Historical Context

First and second ward were prison security checkpoints. Iron gate provided final barrier to city street. Each opening 'of its own accord' showed divine, not human, agency—no lockpicking, no bribery, pure miracle. One street distance ensured Peter's safety before angel departed. This deliverance around 44 CE paralleled Israel's Exodus—divine power liberating enslaved people from powerful oppressor.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does progressive obstacle removal demonstrate divine power's completeness?
2. What does 'of its own accord' reveal about miracle's supernatural nature?
3. In what ways does God ensure complete deliverance rather than partial?
4. Why does angel depart once Peter reaches safety?
5. What parallels exist between this deliverance and Israel's Exodus?

Interlinear Text

διελθόντες δὲ πρώτην φυλακὴν καὶ δευτέραν ἥλθον
they were past When the first ward and the second they came
G1330 G1161 G4413 G5438 G2532 G1208 G2064

ἐπὶ τὴν πύλην τὴν σιδηρᾶν τὴν φέρουσαν εἰς τὴν
unto gate the iron that leadeth unto G3588 G4439 G4603 G5342 G1519 G3588

πόλιν ἣτις αὐτομάτη ἤνοιχθη αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξελθόντες
the city which of his own accord opened him and they went out
G4172 G3748 G844 G455 G846 G2532 G1831

προῆλθον διέβη μίαν καὶ εὐθέως ἀπέστη ὁ
and passed on through street and forthwith departed G3588
G4281 G4505 G2532 G2112 G868

ἄγγελος ἀπ' αὐτοῦ
the angel from him
G32 G575 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:26 (Parallel theme): And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Acts 5:19 (Parallel theme): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

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