

# Acts 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.** Herod's elaborate security—sixteen soldiers guarding Peter—demonstrates both Peter's perceived danger and sets stage for miraculous deliverance.

## Historical Context

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Four quaternions equals sixteen soldiers (four squads of four), rotating guard duty. After Easter (Greek: Passover) indicates Herod waited until festival concluded, avoiding public disruption. This imprisonment around 44 CE represented intensified persecution after Stephen's martyrdom and James's execution (Acts 12:2). Herod Agrippa I sought Jewish approval through persecuting Christian leaders, but God would dramatically deliver Peter.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does elaborate human security highlight divine deliverance's miraculous nature?
2. What role does persecution play in demonstrating gospel's supernatural power?
3. In what ways do political leaders' religious manipulation reveal spiritual warfare?
4. How should believers respond when facing overwhelming odds?
5. What does God's deliverance teach about sovereignty over human authorities?

## Interlinear Text

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Ὄν καὶ πιάσας ἔθετο εἰς φυλακήν  
G3739 **And** **when he had apprehended** **him he put** **him in** **prison**  
G2532 G4084 G5087 G1519 G5438

παραδοὺς τέσσαροιν τετραδίοις στρατιωτῶν φυλάσσειν  
and delivered **him to four** **quaternions** **of soldiers** **to keep**  
G3860 G5064 G5069 G4757 G5442

αὐτὸν βουλόμενος μετὰ τὸ πάσχα ἀναγαγεῖν αὐτὸν τῷ  
him **intending** **after** **Easter** **forth** **him** G3588 G3957 G321 G846 G3588  
G846 G1014 G3326 G3588 G3957 G321 G846 G3588

λαῷ  
to the people  
G2992

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 19:21** (Parallel theme): There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

**Luke 22:33** (Parallel theme): And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death.

**Luke 21:12** (Parallel theme): But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

**Acts 4:28** (Parallel theme): For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

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