

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

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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

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

ὄν	καὶ	πάσας	ἔθετο	εἰς	φυλακὴν	
G3739	And	when he had apprehended	him he put	him in	prison	
	G2532	G4084	G5087	G1519	G5438	
παραδοὺς	τέσσαρσιν	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
him	intending	after	G3588	Easter	forth	him
G846	G1014	G3326		G3957	G321	G846
						τῷ
						G3588
λαῶ						
to the people						
G2992						

Additional Cross-References

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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