

Acts 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

Analysis

The angel's sudden appearance ('light shined in the prison') and physical intervention (striking Peter's side, loosing chains) demonstrates God's sovereignty over physical barriers and human authorities. The details emphasize the miracle's objective reality—Peter initially thought it a vision (Acts 12:9) but experienced genuine supernatural deliverance.

Historical Context

The angel's rescue occurred the night before Peter's scheduled execution, showing God's perfect timing. Four quaternions (16 soldiers) guarding Peter (Acts 12:4) made human escape impossible, highlighting the miraculous nature of his deliverance.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does this deliverance demonstrate God's power over seemingly impossible circumstances?
2. Why does God sometimes deliver miraculously (Peter) but allow martyrdom (James)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἰδού, ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη καὶ φῶς ἔλαμψεν
And behold the angel of the Lord came upon And a light shined
G2532 G2400 G32 G2962 G2186 G2532 G5457 G2989

ἐν τῷ οἰκήματι· πατάξας δὲ τὴν πλευρὰν τοῦ Πέτρου
in the prison he smote and on the side Peter
G1722 G3612 G3960 G1161 G4125 G3588 G4074

ῆγειρεν αὐτοῦ λέγων, Ἀνάστα ἐν τάχει καὶ ἐξέπεσον
and raised him saying Arise up in And fell off
G1453 G846 G3004 G450 G1722 G5034 G2532 G1601

αὐτοῦ αἱ ἀλύσεις ἐκ τῶν χειρῶν
him chains from his hands
G846 G254 G1537 G5495

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 (References Lord): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Psalms 146:7 (References Lord): Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:

Psalms 107:14 (Parallel theme): He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.

Psalms 34:7 (References Lord): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Acts 10:30 (Parallel theme): And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

Acts 2:24 (Resurrection): Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Ephesians 5:14 (Resurrection): Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Luke 24:4 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

Luke 2:9 (References Lord): And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.