

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

Psalms 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	ἰδοὺ,	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	G3588	the prison	he smote	and	G3588	on the side	G3588 Peter
G1722		G3612	G3960	G1161		G4125	G4074
ἤγειρεν	αὐτοῦ	λέγων,	Ἀνάστα	ἐν	τάχει	καὶ	ἐξέπεσον
and raised	him	saying	Arise up	in	G5034	And	fell off
G1453	G846	G3004	G450	G1722		G2532	G1601
αὐτοῦ	αἱ	ἀλύσεις	ἐκ	τῶν	χειρῶν		
him	G3588	chains	from	G3588	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.