

Acts 12:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

Analysis

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. Peter's uncertainty about reality—thinking it was vision—demonstrates the experience's supernatural character while showing human processing of extraordinary events.

Historical Context

Wist not means didn't know or understand. Peter's confusion between vision and reality shows genuine supernatural experience transcending normal perception. Having received rooftop vision previously (Acts 10:9-16), Peter initially categorized this similarly. The uncertainty adds authenticity—fabricated accounts wouldn't include protagonist's confusion. Around 44 CE, this deliverance demonstrated God's sovereign protection of apostolic leadership.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Why do supernatural experiences sometimes blur distinction between vision and reality?
2. How does honest confusion strengthen rather than weaken testimony's credibility?
3. In what ways do extraordinary divine acts transcend normal perception?
4. What role does gradual understanding play in processing supernatural events?
5. How should believers discern between spiritual vision and physical reality?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ· καὶ οὐκ ᾔδει ὅτι ἀληθές
And he went out and followed him And not wist that true
G2532 G1831 G190 G846 G2532 G3756 G1492 G3754 G227

ἐστὶν τοῦ γινόμενον διὰ τοῦ ἀγγέλου· ἐδόκει δὲ
it was which was done by which the angel thought but
G2076 G3588 G1096 G1223 G3588 G32 G1380 G1161

ὄραμα βλέπειν
a vision he saw
G3705 G991

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 126:1 (Parallel theme): When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

Hebrews 11:8 (Parallel theme): By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.