

Acts 16:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

Analysis

'Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.' The 'inner prison' was the most secure, dark, and uncomfortable section. Stocks (Greek 'xylon' - wood) held feet in painful positions, preventing movement or rest. Maximum discomfort accompanied maximum security. Yet this darkest hour preceded the jailor's conversion.

Historical Context

Roman inner prisons were underground cells, dark and often used for condemned criminals awaiting execution. The jailor's thoroughness in confining Paul and Silas shows he took his responsibility seriously.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God often work greatest deliverances in darkest circumstances?
2. What does it mean to trust God when everything seems hopeless?
3. How can our responses to suffering witness to watching unbelievers?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	παραγγελίαν	τοιαύτην	εἰληφως	ἔβαλεν	αὐτῶν	εἰς
Who	a charge	such	having received	thrust	their	in
G3739	G3852	G5108	G2983	G906	G846	G1519
τὴν	ἐσωτέραν	φυλακὴν	καὶ	τοὺς	πόδας	αὐτῶν
G3588	the inner	prison	and	G3588	feet	their
	G2082	G5438	G2532		G4228	G846
ἡσφαλίσατο	εἰς	τὸ	ξύλον			
fast	in	G3588	the stocks			
G805	G1519		G3586			

Additional Cross-References

Job 33:11 (Parallel theme): He putteth my feet in the stocks, he marketh all my paths.

Job 13:27 (Parallel theme): Thou puttest my feet also in the stocks, and lookest narrowly unto all my paths; thou settest a print upon the heels of my feet.

Jeremiah 29:26 (Creation): The LORD hath made thee priest in the stead of Jehoiada the priest, that ye should be officers in the house of the LORD, for every man that is mad, and maketh himself a prophet, that thou shouldest put him in prison, and in the stocks.

Jeremiah 38:26 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt say unto them, I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there.