

Acts 16:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The earthquake that 'opened all the doors and loosed everyone's bands' demonstrated divine response to worship—God intervenes when His people praise. Yet Paul's decision not to escape but to prevent the jailer's suicide showed mission priority over personal freedom. This self-giving love prepared for the jailer's conversion.

Historical Context

The miraculous earthquake in Philippi (AD 50) could have allowed escape, but Paul's compassion toward his jailer led to household conversion. This event established the Philippian church that became Paul's closest partner in ministry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God respond to worship even in dire circumstances?
2. When should believers forgo exercising their rights for gospel opportunities?

Interlinear Text

ἄφνω	δὲ	σεισμός	ἐγένετο	μέγας	ὥστε	σαλευθῆναι	τὰ
suddenly	And	earthquake	there was	a great	so that	were shaken	G3588
G869	G1161	G4578	G1096	G3173	G5620	G4531	
θεμέλια	τοῦ	δεσποτηρίου·	ἀνεώχθησαν	τε	παραχρῆμα		
the foundations	G3588	of the prison	were opened	and	immediately		
G2310		G1201	G455	G5037	G3916		
αἱ	θύραι	πάντων	καὶ	πάντων	τὰ	δεσμὰ	ἀνέθη
G3588	the doors	all	and	all	G3588	bands	were loosed
	G2374	G3956	G2532	G3956		G1199	G447

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:31 (Parallel theme): And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 5:19 (Parallel theme): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Acts 12:10 (Parallel theme): When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Acts 12:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

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

Matthew 28:2 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Isaiah 42:7 (Parallel theme): To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Psalms 102:20 (Parallel theme): To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;

Revelation 11:13 (Parallel theme): And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Isaiah 61:1 (Parallel theme): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;