

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 σεισμὸς 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 δεσμωτηρίου ἀνεώχθησαν τε παραχρῆμα
the foundations of the prison were opened and immediately G3916
G2310 G3588 G1201 G455 G5037 G3916

αἱ θύραι πάντων καὶ πάντων τὰ δεσμὰ ἀνέθη
the doors all and all G3588 bands were loosed G447
G3588 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;

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