

Acts 5:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Analysis

The miraculous deliverance - 'the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth' - demonstrates God's sovereign control. The Greek 'angelos kyriou' (angel of the Lord) may indicate Christ's pre-incarnate appearances or angelic messenger. The timing 'by night' avoided detection while the opened doors (Greek 'anoixas') showed supernatural power. The command 'Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life' turned deliverance toward mission - freedom served proclamation, not escape.

Historical Context

Angelic prison rescue parallels Peter's later deliverance (Acts 12:6-10) and Paul's (Acts 16:26). These interventions demonstrated God's control over imprisonment. The angel's command to return to temple teaching showed boldness - immediate return to the site of arrest. 'Words of this life' (Greek 'rhēmata tēs zōēs tautēs') emphasized gospel's life-giving power.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does miraculous deliverance serve gospel proclamation rather than personal comfort?
2. What does the command to return immediately to temple teaching reveal about kingdom priorities?

Interlinear Text

ἄγγελος δὲ κυρίου διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ἤνοιξεν τὰς θύρας
the angel But of the Lord by night opened doors
G32 G1161 G2962 G1223 G3588 G3571 G455 G3588 G2374

τῆς φυλακῆς ἐξαγαγών τε αὐτοὺς εἶπεν
the prison brought and them and said
G3588 G5438 G1806 G5037 G846 G2036

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.

Psalms 34:7 (References Lord): The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Acts 8:26 (References Lord): And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Acts 27:23 (Parallel theme): For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Isaiah 61:1 (References Lord): 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;

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

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org