

Acts 5:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

Analysis

The officers' discovery - 'when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told, saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within' - describes supernatural escape with no natural explanation. The doors remained locked, guards unaware, yet prisoners vanished. This irrefutable evidence of divine intervention confronted authorities with God's approval of apostolic ministry.

Historical Context

Ancient prisons were simple - locked doors, guards posted. Escape without violence or noticed departure suggested supernatural intervention. The guards' ignorance ('standing without before the doors') cleared them of negligence, preventing punishment. The officers' detailed report emphasized impossibility of natural explanation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do miraculous signs force opponents to acknowledge divine activity even while resisting?
2. What does the locked but empty prison teach about God's power transcending human restriction?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	ὑπηρέται	παραγενόμενοι	οὐχ	εὔρον	αὐτοὺς
G3588	But	when the officers	came	not	and found	them
	G1161	G5257	G3854	G3756	G2147	G846
ἐν	τῇ	φυλακῇ·	ἀναστρέψαντες	δὲ	ἀπήγγειλαν	
in	G3588	the prison	they returned	But	told	
G1722		G5438	G390	G1161	G518	

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