

DIVINE DELIVERANCE
(Acts 12:1-19)

- I. Danger (Acts 12:1-6)
 - A. The SOURCE of the threat—HEROD (Agrippa I)
 - 1. GRANDSON of Herod the Great
 - 2. Desired to APPEASE the JEWS
 - B. The TARGET of the threat—the APOSTLES
 - C. The REALITY of the threat
 - 1. JAMES, brother of John, had been BEHEADED
 - 2. PETER, business partner and companion of James and John, had been ARRESTED
 - D. The REACTION to the threat
 - 1. The church went to PRAYER
 - 2. The Apostle went to SLEEP
- II. Deliverance (Acts 12:7-17a)
 - A. The TIMING of the rescue—the LAST NIGHT
 - B. The METHOD of the rescue—miraculous ANGELIC intervention
 - 1. Angel “SMOTE” Peter on the side
 - 2. Shackles FELL OFF
 - 3. Guards NEVER NOTICED

4. Peter put on his CLOTHES, SANDLES, and CLOAK
 5. Angel led Peter past TWO GUARD STATIONS
 6. External IRON gate opened AUTOMATICALLY
 7. Angel led Peter down ONE narrow street
- C. The REACTION to the rescue
1. Peter's sudden AWARENESS of his POSITION
 2. Peter's sudden APPEARANCE at the PRAYER meeting

III. Departures (Acts 12:17b-19)

- A. Peter went into HIDING, probably in ANTIOCH (12:17b; cf. Gal. 2:11-21; Acts 15:7-11, 14)
- B. Guards went to their DEATHS (12:18)
- C. Herod went to CEASAREA (12:19)

IV. Lessons

- A. Serving the Lord can be HAZARDOUS/COSTLY
- B. Trials and persecution should prompt FERVENT PRAYER
 1. Acknowledges GOD as SOVEREIGN
 2. Prepares US to ACCEPT God's will
- C. While He doesn't always do so, God is ABLE to DELIVER
 1. James was EXECUTED and went on to GLORY
 2. Peter was RELEASED and went back to WORK
- D. Confident faith can SLEEP on the eve of EXECUTION