

## **PETER ARRESTED AND THEN MIRACULOUSLY RELEASED!**

(Acts 12:1-19)

### **I. THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (1-2)**

### **II. THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM (3-7)**

### **III. THE CHURCH'S WITNESS FOR CHRIST IN JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND SYRIA (8-12)**

#### **A. The Renewed Persecution of the Church (12:1-19)**

1. Luke describes King Herod Agrippa I, how he began to persecute the \_\_\_\_\_ in order to \_\_\_\_\_ the Jewish leaders who opposed them, hoping to solidify his position. (v. 1)
2. This wicked man Herod had James (the brother of John) \_\_\_\_\_ with the sword; he was the second martyr who is named, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the apostles. (v. 2)
3. Like any politician, Herod saw the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ political \_\_\_\_\_ he received from executing the Apostle James, and he went on to arrest Peter during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. (v. 3)
4. Herod had \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers assigned to guard Peter- four soldiers for each watch, two chained to the prisoner and two outside his cell; \_\_\_\_\_ speaking there was \_\_\_\_\_ way Peter could escape. (v. 4)
5. While Peter was bound in prison, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church were not; the saints used its only \_\_\_\_\_ — fervent prayer. (v. 5)

\* On the eve of being brought out for public execution, how could Peter sleep so soundly?

6. The angel \_\_\_\_\_ Peter to get up quickly, and when he did, “*his chains fell off his hands*”; being half asleep he was then \_\_\_\_\_ to get dressed and follow the angel out. (vv. 7-8)
7. Peter was still so sleepy he wasn’t sure if this was reality or a dream; but the angel led him past the many \_\_\_\_\_ of guards and gates until finally they arrived at the massive outside door of the prison, and it swung open \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 9-10)
8. It wasn’t until Peter was outside the prison and the angel had disappeared when he finally \_\_\_\_\_ that it was \_\_\_\_\_ that freed him from Herod and public execution. (v. 11)
9. Knowing that he needed to get off the \_\_\_\_\_ quickly, he went to Mary’s home, the mother of John Mark; it is here that many believers were gathered together \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. (v. 12)
10. The humorous confusion that followed is observed in verses 13-16...
- a. When Rhoda recognized Peter’s voice outside the gate, she \_\_\_\_\_ standing there while she went in to tell the group their prayers were \_\_\_\_\_! (vv. 13-14)
  - b. The group inside the house who had been praying for Peter’s release \_\_\_\_\_ believe Rhoda that the apostle was at the door, so they all opened the door \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 15-16)
11. Peter related to these saints the story of his dramatic release, and he then went into \_\_\_\_\_; meanwhile, Herod had the soldiers who had been on guard over Peter \_\_\_\_\_. (vv. 17-19)

\* What can you personally apply from this passage today?