



AT THE DOOR (Acts 12:1-18)

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

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. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he said unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and did not know that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the Iron Gate that leads into 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.

And when Peter was come to himself, he said; now I know for sure, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go show these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place. Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter?”

In these verses of scripture, Herod set out to afflict, oppress and torment the church. He had just killed James, the brother of John and now he was after Peter. It was Passover week and Peter was put in prison. The scripture says that he was guarded by a squad of four soldiers. But prayer was made without ceasing.

Peter was SLEEPING between two soldiers, bound with two chains and had keepers at the door. That same night when Peter was hours or perhaps even minutes from being killed, an angel appears. A light shines in the prison and the angel nudges him and tells him to get up quickly. Peter's chains fall off on their own accord and the angel tells him to tighten his belt, bind up his sandals and wrap his outer garment around him. Peter follows the angel and thinks he's dreaming.

PSALM 126:1 says, "***When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.***"

So they pass through the first guard, then pass through second guard and now get to the Iron Gate which leads into the city. By itself the gate swings open and he passed out of the prison into the street. The angels' job is completed and he leaves.

Now Peter realizes it's not a dream. "Now I really know and am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all that they were expecting to do to me." He is now free.

He gets himself together and heads over to Mary's house where the big praying meeting is going on. He knocks at the porch gate and Rhoda answers. She immediately recognizes Peter's voice and flips out. She runs and tells the people assembled that Peter is at the door. They try to ignore her and think she's crazy, but she persistently, strongly, confidently, affirms it was Peter at the door. They explain it by saying it's his angel. But Peter continues knocking and when they open the gate, there he was- the one they had been praying for.

How was it possible that Peter was chained between two guards and yet the guards didn't awake? How was it possible that only Peter saw the bright light? How did they not hear Peter's chains fall? They didn't hear when he passed between the first and second guard. They didn't hear the huge Iron Gate open for Peter. It must have weighted tons, but yet not only did it open on its own accord, but only Peter heard it open.

I want you to know that you are about to be released from that prison or that thing that has you bound. Expect a supernatural move of God to release you and get you out. You will be the only one to hear the chains fall, you will be the only one to hear the door open. Once you are free, just like there was a stirring in the jailhouse that Peter was in, there will be a stirring in your family, your job, your church and they will be amazed that you got out of that situation.

You will repeat the words of Peter and say: "***Now I really know and am sure that the Lord has sent His angel and delivered me from the hand of the enemy and all that they were expecting to do to me.***"

Can you see the light shining? Can you hear the chains falling? Prepare yourself to pass through. Can you hear the sound of the gate opening? Walk out to freedom.

They will soon announce that YOU are at the door!