

## **ACTS: Jail Break**

Acts 12:1-25

### **Herod's Rage (v. 1-5)**

- Herod Agrippa I (10 B.C.–A.D. 44)
  - Grandson of Herod the Great (Luke 1:5)
  - Nephew of Herod the Tetrarch (Luke 3:19; 13:31; 23:7–12)
  - He had recently returned from Rome to rule
  - He was a pious Jew and a ruthless suppressor of minorities when they became disruptive
- He saw followers of Jesus as a threat
  - So, he targeted the leadership of the Church
    - Killing James, John's brother
    - Imprisoning Peter
      - Intending to kill him after the Passover feast had ended
        - This led the Church to fervent prayer

### **The Jail Break (v. 6-17)**

- God sends an angel to deliver Peter from Herod (v. 6-11)
- Peter then seeks out the Church gathered at John Mark's mother's house
- They are in prayer for Peter and do not believe the servant girl's report that he is there
  - They conclude that rather than God answering their prayers, it must be an angel
- When they learn the truth, they are amazed
- Peter recounts his story and then gives instructions to share it with the rest of the Church and its leadership

### **Herod's Fate (v. 18-25)**

- When Herod learned of Peter's escape, he was livid and put the guards to death (v. 18-19)
- As he was dealing with ruling, Herod is overcome with pride
  - This led the Lord to strike him dead
  - Thus, his kingdom and rule was thwarted
- Meanwhile, the Kingdom of God increased despite Herod's efforts (v. 24)
  - And the stage is set for the Gospel to continue to spread through the ministry of Barnabus, Saul\*, & John Mark

### **So What?**

- Man cannot thwart the plans of God

- God uses human rulers to advance His kingdom in ways that we cannot always see or understand
- God answers prayer, sometimes while we are still asking

***Meditation Verse:*** Hebrews 12:28