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The previous chapter ended saying: that in response to the great global famine during the reign of Claudius the Greek disciples who had means, also assisted the relief efforts for the brethren living in Judea.

The Christian persecution by Herod and the death of James,

¹ Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on the church to vex them.

² And he had James the brother of John, put to death with the sword.

³ And when he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded arrest Peter also. It was during the days of unleavened bread)

⁴ And when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to the quaternion the squad of four soldiers to guard him; intending after Passover to bring him forth to the people.

⁵ So Peter was kept in prison: but fervent prayer was made by the church to God.

⁶ And on the night when Herod planned to bring him forth, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and guards in front of the door guarded the prison.

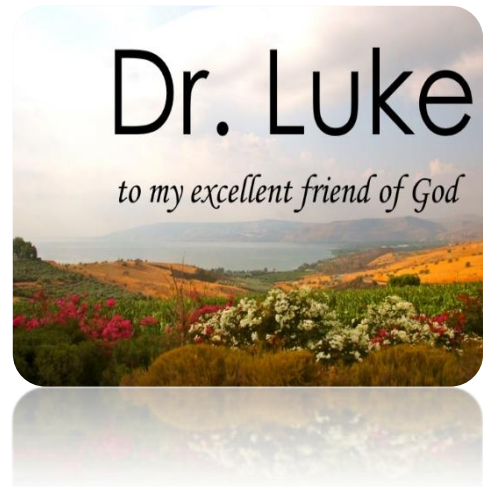
⁷ And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared, and a light shone in the prison cell: and he tapped Peter on his side, and roused him, saying, Rise up quickly. And his chains fell off his hands.

⁸ And the angel said to him, Gird yourself, and put on your sandals. And he did so. And he said to him, Wrap your garment around you, and follow me.

⁹ And he went out, and followed him; and he did not know what was done by the angel was real; but thought he was seeing a vision.

¹⁰ And when they passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate that led to the city; which opened of its own accord: and they went out, and went along one street; and suddenly the angel departed from him.

¹¹ And when Peter came to himself, he said, Now I know for sure, that the Lord has sent his angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod, and from all the Jewish people expected.



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¹² And when he realized the thing, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose was called Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

¹³ And when Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a young girl named Rhoda came to answer.

¹⁴ And when she realized Peter's voice, she did not open the gate because of her joy, but ran in, and told how Peter was standing in front of the gate.

¹⁵ And they said to her, You are crazy. But she kept insisting that it was so. Then said they, It is his angel.

¹⁶ But Peter continued knocking: and when they opened the door, and saw him, they were amazed.

¹⁷ But gesturing to them with his hand to be quiet, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Report these things to James, and to the brothers. And he departed, and went to another place.

¹⁸ Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers, as to what became of Peter.

¹⁹ And when Herod searched for him, and did not find him, he examined the guards, and ordered that they be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and stayed there.

²⁰ And Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, asked him for peace; because their country was fed by the king's country.

²¹ And on an appointed day Herod, dressed in royal apparel, sat on his throne, and delivered an address to them.

²² And the people continued shouting, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

²³ And instantly an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God: and he was eaten by worms, and died.



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²⁴ But the word of God continues to grow and multiplied.

²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

The Love of God