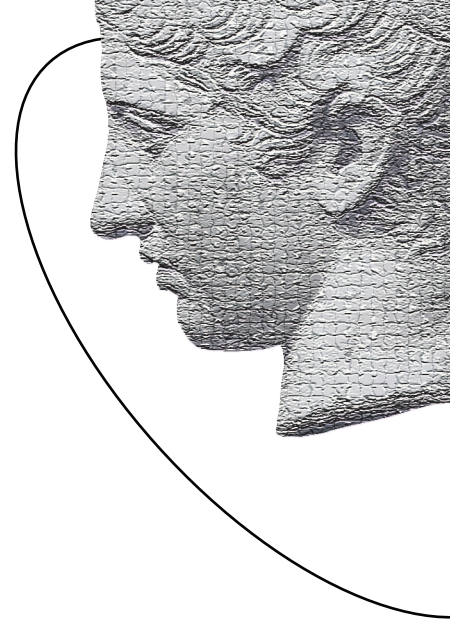




# acts.

## 12



### when.

- The events of chapter 12 likely occurred in 44 A.D.
- Herod Agrippa I was king of Judea from 41-44 A.D.

### characters.

- James – An Apostle, the brother of John the Apostle.
- Peter – An Apostle, the brother of Andrew the Apostle.
- Herod Agrippa – King of Judea and grandson of Herod the Great. He died at the age of 54.
- Rhoda – A servant girl who worked in the house of Mary, mother of John called Mark.
- John Mark – A travelling companion of Paul and Barnabas.

### where.

- James was killed in the city of Jerusalem
- After Peter's escape from jail, Herod went to live in Caesarea, near the Mediterranean coast.



## outline.

- THE MARYRDOM OF JAMES THE APOSTLE AND THE ARREST OF PETER (12:1-5):
  - + Herod Agrippa I was a persecutor of the early Church.
  - + He killed James, the brother of John, with a sword.
  - + When he saw that it pleased his Jewish constituents, He arrested Peter, intending to give him a similar fate.
- PETER RESCUED FROM PRISON (12:6-19):
  - + The night before Peter was to be killed, he was bound by chains and sleeping between two soldiers.
  - + The angel of the Lord woke Peter up, loosed his chains, and led him out of the iron gate securing the prison.
  - + The angel departed as soon as they made it to the city street.
  - + Peter went to the house of a woman named Mary, where many saints had gathered to pray.
  - + Peter knocked on the door and asked a servant girl named Rhoda to let him enter.
  - + Recognized Peter's voice, but neglecting to open the door, she excitedly informed the prayer group of Peter's arrival.
  - + The people in the house didn't believe her.
  - + When the door was finally opened, the whole group was amazed to see Peter standing in front of them.
  - + Peter recounted his experience with the angel to them and then went into hiding.
  - + Herod searched for Peter the next day without success.
  - + In anger, he ordered the prison guards to be put to death.
- HEROD'S DEATH (12:20-25):
  - + One day, Herod dressed in his royal robes, sat on his throne, and gave an "oration" to the people.
  - + The people worshipped him as if he were a god.
  - + Herod accepted their praise, and his heart was full of pride.
  - + As a result, an angel of the Lord "struck him down" and "he was eaten by worms and breathed his last."

## application.

- How does an angel free a prisoner who is chained to two guards and lead them out of an iron clad prison without the slightest resistance?
- How did the guards not realize a man was no longer chained to them?
- How did they not see the iron gate open?
- God can work in ways that are invisible and indiscernible to us.
- He can affect and change the world around us without our recognition, even the things immediately before our eyes.
- Don't assume that because you can't see and explain God's work that He isn't working.
- Don't think too much of yourself by presuming you understand every way God works.

