

THE ACTS
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
CHAPTER 12:1-19

Media Reference Number SMX - 185

TITLE:

“WHEN GOD ANSWERS PRAYER”

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth**.”

Persecution:

The Following Verses Announce that the Church was an identifiable Group, that was not going to go away...

Matthew 16:18

"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The Church Has Never Ceased to be...

Jesus said What He meant, He meant What He said.



**Jesus has never failed, nor ever shall He fail
at Pastoring His Church**

Verses 1 & 2 Establish the Need

There are (3) ‘Main-Herods’ of the Bible: *(it’s not easy keeping up with who fits in where and I don’t expect you to know)*

1 HEROD THE GREAT, (*King of Judea during the time of Jesus' Birth recorded in Matt. 2*)

2 HEROD ANTIPAS (*Son of Herod the Great - Tetrarch of Galilee*)

- *This Herod was very much enamored with Jesus. He had often desired to see Him so that Jesus might perform.*
- *Go tell that fox*
- *Luke 23:6-12 (see ARCHKO vol.) herod's defense*

3 HEROD AGRIPPA I, (*Grandson of Herod the Great, Son of Aristobulus*)

AN IDEAOMEAN (EDOMITE) HALF-BREED WANNA BE
--

According to Scripture;

Israel & The Church was to be, is to be, governed by God.

‘Herod the King’

This is a sad and telling verse. For Israel was to never have an earthly King.

This Verse Contains Two *opposing governments that have struggled since the beginning of man.*

All Earthy Governments

are a form of tyranny (because of man's sin)

Man is incapable *of governing himself, in fact, Man's best attempt, Communism has left a world ravaged by war and poverty*

Man's Most Recent Try,

the democratic form of governing in America, where the Bible was used to establish the laws & patterns. has only, at best, been a weak substitute !!!

stretched

GRK 1911 epiballo (ep-ee-bal'-lo)

to throw force upon. to beat into submission

Harass (vex)

GRK 2559 kakoo (kak-o'-o)

to injure; to exasperate

‘some from the church’

The Leadership

Note; *There is no attempt to replace James' position among the twelve apostles, because the witness to Israel had been rejected since the stoning of Stephen.*

Verse 3

the Jews

The definite article in front of 'Jews' tells us that it is the
Scribes & Pharisees & Sadducees

HEROD AGRIPPA I

being a Partial Jew by decent,
and

Being under great pressure from Rome, to keep the peace

The Orthodox Jewish Leaders where in Opposition to the Church,
If James being killed brought him more favor, Then killing Peter, the Recognized
Leader & Gentile lover, would be a victory for sure !!!

Peters was bound *with 2 guards on each side (4) and (12) others about him (4 tetrads or 16) 1 squad (4) could protect an 20 sq. ft. area from a thousand men by the very nature of their training and weapons*

1.) Prayer, A Present Help in Time of Need vv. 5-17

'But Prayer'

The Change in Course

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| • To God | the aim of prayer, |
| • In Earnest | the seriousness of prayer |
| • By the Church | the source of prayer, the church |
| • For Peter | the purpose, Peter |

Jesus and the Lord's Prayer (the believer's prayer)

AT THE CLOSE OF GIVING US THE PATTERN FOR EFFECTIVE PRAYER, HE
DISCLOSES THE POWER OF PRAYER

James 5:16

The 'effectual' 'fervent'
prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Constant Prayer

Luke 11:5-13

And He said to them, "Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; (*persistence*)

Constant Prayer

>>>>> Turn to Luke 18 <<<<<<

"Doesn't God Know before I Pray"?

God Has Chosen to Provide Prayer as a Way...

He gives an answer to prayer some things He will not give apart from it.

James 4:2

you do not have because you do not ask.

Peter,

A TYPE OF AN UN-CONVERTED MAN
IMPOSSIBLY BOUND

Peter, Prone to sleep and Prone to Prison

~~James~~ Peter

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; :7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Psalm 4:8

I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Peter Had the Word of the Lord

John 21:18-19

"Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish." :19 This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

Peter would later write in his epistle;

1 Peter 5:7

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

John 15:7

Verse 7

Prayer Affected Heaven

*Thomas Watson Said,
"The Angel fetched Peter out of prison,
But prayer fetched the angel out of Heaven"*

Struck ***GRK 3960 patasso (pat-as'-so)***
to knock upon a door, or to fatally wound

"Lord, could you have them back off on the prayer... so I can wake Peter up" - angel

Ephesians 5:14

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light."

James is Martyred, Peter is Delivered
the Sovereign hand of God at Work;

~ *Why* ~
For the Purposes of God

1 Peter 4:12-14

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; :13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. :14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

after sin has been dealt with, *the sinner is loosed and prepared with the gospel of peace. (walk like a believer)*

Peter went in bound, and while he was bound, deliverance came. And so to for the sinner.

- **no longer making a rattle,**
- **no longer under a burden,**
- **easily escaping the crisis.**

Peter Talking to Himself, Said...

Here, Peter is overwhelmed, surprised, shocked by what's happening..

"God's Work Should Always Have This Effect On Us"

Habakkuk 1:5

"Look among the nations and watch-- ***be utterly astounded!*** For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you.

Verse 12

“and when he had considered this”

Peter heads for a house *that was known for prayer, for having a spiritual atmosphere.*

A SPIRITUAL HOME

It was Passover time, He returned to the Upper room of Mary, where Jesus spent that final night of communion

ONE OF THE MOST COMICAL RECORDS OF THE BIBLE

All the Ingredients for a great prayer meeting

- a) many were praying, b) earnest prayer,
- c) prayed day & night, d) specific prayer

~~>>>>>>>>>> Faith <<<<<<<<<<<~~

Verse 15

“I Just Knew Nothing Would Happen.....”

..... then don't come to the prayer meeting.

Come Expecting....

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. :15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

Every Person Who Comes to a Prayer Meeting
should come pregnant... with worship or joy or pain or burden or hurts or frustrations
or needs....

“Just Come Pregnant of Heart”

I am Convinced,

That the true believers in Prayer, are those who are either;

#1 In Great Need Themselves

#2 Or Pray Themselves

The Power of Prayer is not in **the** Prayer, but in the object of whom it is directed.

Verse 16

“Now” *implying that while this argument was in progress, Peter continued!*

I wonder what else he heard ???

Daniel 11:32

"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know
their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.

Verse 17

This James is the son of Joseph & Mary, the half-brother of Jesus

According to Matthews Gospel, Jesus was the Eldest of seven
children born to Mary

Matthew 13:55-56

"Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses,
Simon, and Judas? :56 "And His sisters, are they not all
with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

This is Our Farewell to Peter in The Book of Acts

Verse 18

Psalm 34:16

The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,

According to Roman Law, If a criminal escaped under your authority, that prisoners sentence became yours even to the death !!!

Verse 19

**Herod was intending to Mock Jesus, Christianity & Peter
by Killing Him on the day after PASSOVER
>>>>>>>>> Like Jesus Himself <<<<<<<<<**

THE CHAINS FELL OFF'

John 5:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

The Summation of Acts 12 is;

1 Peter 3:12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."