

Chains and Gates

KJV Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also.

4 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.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Chains are used to **bind and hold** prisoners in place, restricting movement and comfort were usually made from metal (iron).

Gates are used for **entry and exiting**, going from one realm (place) to another.

This is the story of **Peter in prison** and an **angel** comes and **releases him**.

There are a few things I want to point out, I think are critical that we can't afford to overlook at this time in history.

The main characters in this story are Herod, Peter and The angel of The Lord.

- **Herod's** name means "*hero of the people.*"
- **Peter's** name means "*rock or stone.*" The one who got Jesus to release the revelation of the power of the church. (Mat 16:17,18)
- **Angel of The Lord** means "*messenger from The LORD.*"

First Herod sees it's so easy to kill James the brother of John that he thought he could just as easily kill Peter. (attacking doma gifts).

James The Brother of John, known as James the greater, not the author of the book of James, (Jesus brother) he called the lesser because of age.

- James the brother of John was one of Jesus' **first disciples!**
- He was the **first apostle martyred** for his faith.
- James with Peter & John were invited by Jesus to see things no one else saw!

Secondly, because Herod saw it pleased the people, he sought more political power with the people, so he planned to kill Peter.

Thirdly, the unceasing prayers of the saints stopped the plans of the of politically wicked spirit of Herod (hero of the people).

Fourthly, the night before Peter's trial the angel of The Lord came to Peter hit him on the side and woke him up.

Because of the prayers of the righteous the angel of The Lord goes to Peter (the one being prayed for), not to the saints who were doing the praying.

While the saints were praying God, was moving, it would be some time before the saints found out their prayers were being answered.

Peter had enough peace that he didn't stay up all night praying (because the saints were praying) Peter had peace and could go to sleep.

The only reason some of us can sleep with peace is because of the prayers of the saints.

In **verse 7** the bible says when the angel entered the cell a **bright light shined** in the prison—but that didn't wake Peter up!

The angel had to hit Peter on the side to wake him up!

It was **only** when Peter stood up that the **chains** (notice it) **fell off!** The chains could only fall **if Peter stands up!** (verse 7)

Prophetically speaking, there are some chains that will fall off only we just stand up!

You have to take a stand to get to the next level of freedom!

Fifthly, the chains fell off on their own! Did you hear what I just said, *the chains fell off on their own accord!*

The Bible doesn't say, the angel loose them, a guard loosed them or Peter shook them off, no—they had a will of their own.

The angel came to set Peter free, but **Peter had to wake up, get up and stand up!**

The chains responded to Peter's faith in standing up!

Sixthly, the angel only told Peter to put his clothes and sandals on and follow him (vs. 8), the angel never mentions the chains.

Could it be when we're in trouble we try to do too much to help God help us out of our situation.

Stay calm and do **only** what God says, the angel knew Peter couldn't follow him while he was chained down!

Seventhly, as Peter followed the angel, they went past the first and second guard posts, possibly two other gates guarded by soldiers.

Then Peter reaches the **city gate** a large gate fortified with iron that protected the inhabitants from outside invasion.

- **This gate like the iron chains opened on its own accord!**

Again, The Bible doesn't say the angel opened it, but rather it opened on its own accord—as if it had a mind of its own!

Could the keys to the chains and the gates have been supernatural?

KJV Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Jesus gave Peter (and the church) **the keys of The Kingdom of Heaven** and whatever the (church through prayer) locks up and shuts down on earth God backs it up in the spirit realm.

I'm telling you we have supernatural keys that open doors, gates and chains--supernaturally.

A **1955** song by Robert Sande & Samuel Scott; "*Prayer is the key and faith unlocks the door*" was prophetic.

Whatever the church **loosens and sets free** on earth, God backs up in the heavenlies.

That prison represented several things to Peter and the church:

1. Hindering of the gospel
2. Silencing of the **doma gifts**.
3. Victory over political powers.
4. Authority over the realm of death.
5. Power of The Kingdom citizen.

The gate opening represented Peter breaking free from the realm of death and entering a higher realm of ministry.

Notice when Peter goes to the house of Mary the mother of John Mark where many people were gathered praying for him.

He knocks on the door of the gate but Rhoda is so excited to see him instead of letting him in she runs to tell everybody.

The gate of Fellowship has to be opened by those we fellowship with; the **gates of Hell** have to be overcome by supernatural efforts.

Not long afterward Herod leaves Judea and goes to Caesarea and stays there to meet with the people needed food from Herod.

Herod wearing his finest royal robes makes a public speech and the people began shouting *“this is the voice of god and not a man”!*

An immediately the same angel of The Lord who had set Peter free killed Herod because he didn't give the glory to God. (Acts 12:23).

- **KJV Acts 12:24** *But the word of God grew and multiplied.*

In spite of all that Herod (hero of the people) had done, he couldn't stop The Word of God from growing and multiplying.

Herod means *“heroic”* he represents the worlds hero, the champion of its cause—Herod wanted to **vex** the church and started killing God's **doma gifts**.

But God turned it around by delivering His **doma gifts** from death and killing the one who tried to kill them!

The **end result** of the saints praying for Peter's freedom meant that **Herod** the one who desired to kill him, be removed from the scene.

For **The Gates of Hell** shall not prevail against The Church of Jesus Christ!