

ACTS 12

NLET

HEROD PERSECUTES THE EKKLESIA, KILLING JACOB AND ARRESTING PETER

1 Now, during that – the period of time – Herod the King laid the hands on some of those from the Ekklesia in order to maltreat them.

2 Now, he annihilated Jacob¹, the brother of John. A Roman short sword *was used*. 3 And, seeing² that it was pleasing to the Jews, he added *the deed* to arrest also Peter.

Now, it was the Days of Unleavened Bread. 4 And, having seized him, he put him into prison, having handed him over to four squads of four soldiers *each* to keep watch, intending to bring him up to the People after the Passover.

5 So, on the one hand, Peter was being guarded in the prison. On the other hand, prayer was taking place – *that is*, fervent³ *prayer* – by the Ekklesia⁴ before the God in his behalf⁵.

THE LORD TAKES PETER OUT OF THE HAND OF HEROD

6 Now, at the time when Herod was about to be bringing⁶ him forward, that very night the Peter was falling asleep between two soldiers, having been lastingly bound with chains – two *of them!*. Moreover, before the door guards were keeping the watch.

7 And, look! A messenger of YaHWeH⁷ stood nearby! And, a light shone in the prison cell!

¹ 'Jacob' – a more accurate transliteration of the Greek name Ἰάκωβον, usually transliterated as 'James'.

² 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'And, seeing' here instead 'Now, seeing'.

³ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'fervent' (an adjective) here instead ἐκτενῶς (an adverb).

⁴ 'Ekklesia' – a transliteration of the Greek word ἐκκλησία, meaning 'a special assembly of people who have been called out of society (here, by God Himself) for some special public service'.

⁵ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'in his behalf' here instead 'concerning him'.

⁶ 25% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'to be bringing' (a present infinitive) here. On the basis of 2% the NU has 'to bring' (an aorist infinitive).

⁷ 'YaHWeH' – The Greek word for 'Lord' appears here without being preceded with a definite article. Luke and other New Testament writers indicated the sacred, personal, four consonant, Hebrew name for God – namely, YaHWeH – in this way. This phenomenon is especially evident when New Testament writers are quoting Old Testament passages where this name occurs.

Now, having struck the side of the Peter, he roused him, saying, "Rise up with haste!"

And, the chains *that were* his were falling⁸ from the wrists.

8 And,⁹ the messenger said to him, "Gird around¹⁰ yourself. And, fasten the sandals *that are* yours on." Now, thus he did.

And, he says to him, "Wrap around the outer garment *that is* yours. And, keep on following me."

9 And, going out, he was following him¹¹.

And, he did not know that the thing coming about through the messenger is real. Now, he was supposing that he was seeing a vision.

10 Now, after they had passed through the first guard and a second, they came to the gate – *that is*, the iron gate, the one which lead into the city – which was opened automatically for them. And, having gone out, they advanced on one street.

And, immediately the messenger departed from him.

11 And, the Peter, having come into a new state of being in himself, said, "Now I know truly that ¹² YaHWeH¹³ dispatched the messenger *that is* His; and, He was setting me free¹⁴ from the hand of Herod and all of the expectation of the People – *namely*, the Jews.

PETER REVEALS HIS ESCAPE AT THE HOUSE OF MARIA

12 Then, being able to see this, he went to the house of ¹⁵ Maria, mother of John – the one being called by the surname Mark – where competent *ones* who had

⁸ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'were falling' (an imperfect verb) here. On the basis of 5% the NU has 'fell' (an aorist verb).

⁹ 85% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'And,' here instead 'Now,' or 'But,'.

¹⁰ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Gird around yourself' here instead 'Gird yourself'.

¹¹ 75% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the pronoun 'him' here.

¹² 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article ὁ here.

¹³ 'YaHWeH' – The Greek word for 'Lord' appears here without being preceded with a definite article. Luke and other New Testament writers indicated the sacred, personal, four consonant, Hebrew name for God – namely, YaHWeH – in this way. This phenomenon is especially evident when New Testament writers are quoting Old Testament passages where this name occurs.

¹⁴ 74% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'was setting me free' (an imperfect verb) here. On the basis of 13% the NU has 'set me free' (an aorist verb).

¹⁵ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here.

lastingly gathered together and were praying were.

13 Now, after the Peter¹⁶ had knocked on the door of the gate, a young girl by the name of Rhoda came to answer. 14 And, having recognized the voice of Peter, because of the delight she did not open the gate.

Now, having run into the house, she announced that Peter was lastingly standing before the gate.

15 Now, the *ones* before her said, "You are mad!"

Now, the *young girl* was affirming confidently that it was so.

Now, the *ones inside* were saying, "*He* is the angel *that is his*¹⁷."

16 Now, the Peter continued knocking.

Now, having opened the door of the gate, they saw him. And, they were astonished!

17 Now, having motioned with his hand to keep silent, he set out in detail how the Lord led him out of the guard.

Now,¹⁸ he said, "Report these *things* to Jacob and the Brothers."

And, having gone out, he went to another place.

THE AFTERMATH OF PETER'S ESCAPE

18 Now, when day came, there was not a little disturbance among the soldiers, as to what the Peter might have come to be.

19 Now, Herod, having made further search for him and not having found him, having interrogated the guards, ordered that they be lead away to execution.

And, having come down from *the region of Judea*, in the¹⁹ *city* Caesarea he was spending time.

HEROD'S ARROGANCE LEADS TO HIS AWFUL DEMISE

20 Now, the Herod²⁰ was very angry with *the people* of Tyre and Sidon. And,²¹ with one accord they were present before him. And, having persuaded Blastus, the one over the bed chamber of the king, they were

asking for peace, because their region was being supported by the revenues of the crown.

21 Now, on a prescribed day the Herod, having clothed himself with kingly apparel and²² having sat upon the rostrum, was speaking pretentious nonsense to them.

22 Now, the people were exclaiming, "A voice of A GOD and not of a man!"

23 Now, on the spot a messenger of YaHWeH²³ struck him, because he did not give²⁴ glory²⁵ to the God.

And, having come to be eaten by worms, his psyche left.

THE WORD OF GOD CONTINUES TO ADVANCE

24 Now, the Word of the God was increasing in strength and was being multiplied.

BARNABAS AND SAUL RETURN FROM JUDEA TO ANTIOCH

25 Now, Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch, having fulfilled the Service²⁶, having taken along with *them* also²⁷ John, the one having been called by the surname 'Mark'.

¹⁶ 90% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), 'the Peter' here instead of 'he'.

¹⁷ 'angel' – a transliteration of the Greek word 'ἄγγελος' which usually means 'messenger' of some kind, here a heavenly messenger.

¹⁸ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Now,' here instead of 'And,'.

¹⁹ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article 'the' here..

²⁰ 85% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the words 'the Herod' here.

²¹ 20% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have the enclitic particle 'And,' here instead of 'Now' or 'But'.

²² 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include conjunction 'and' here..

²³ 'YaHWeH' – The Greek word for 'Lord' appears here without being preceded with a definite article. Luke and other New Testament writers indicated the sacred, personal, four consonant, Hebrew name for God – namely, YaHWeH – in this way. This phenomenon is especially evident when New Testament writers are quoting Old Testament passages where this name occurs.

²⁴ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the definite article 'the' here..

²⁵ 'glory' – here means 'recognition of the divine attributes which shine forth'.

²⁶ 'the Service' – i.e. the service of bringing aid to the Brothers in Judea from the Disciples in Antioch. See Acts 11:29-30.

²⁷ 98% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include καὶ here..