

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

July 31, 2022

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Acts 12:1-10 *Ray Seiler*

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: Peter Finally Fully Wakes Up (Acts 12:11-17)

Announcements

TBG Conference: On Saturday, August 20th, *Berean Bible Society's* television program *Transformed By Grace* will hold a one-day conference at *Grace Bible Church* of Streamwood. A Portillo's lunch is included! Sign the signup sheet if you'd like to go on the small bus our church is chartering.

Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach III's ordination ceremony is scheduled for the next day, August 21. *Transformed By Grace* teacher Pastor Kevin Sadler will help officiate, and lunch will be catered here by Hienie's McCarthy's of Orland.

Our Fall Picnic: September 11 is the confirmed date!

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone.

Acts 12:5-11 *Peter and the Jailbreaker*

Peter was sure he was about to be killed like James (v.2), but he was able to sleep (v.6), because he was comforted by verses like Psalm 3:2-5; 4:6-8. But just knowing your Bible doesn't bring peace automatically. You have to learn to *stay your mind on the Lord* as well (Isa.26:3).

Peter must be in a *deep* sleep, for the light of that shiny angel didn't wake him up. Angels aren't described in the Old Testament, but they are in the New Testament, for the New Testament was the dawn of a new day for Israel (II Pe.1:19).

In verse 8, we're not told what happened to the 2 soldiers Peter was sleeping between, but they probably *fainted* (cf. Mt.28:4). But Peter is free, thinking he saw "a vision" (Acts 12:9). That is, he thought he *dreamed* it (cf. Job 20:8).

We're not told *how* the angel marched Peter through 16 soldiers (cf. Acts 12:4), but it was probably similar to how the Lord passed through the midst of men trying to kill Him (Jo. 8:59). And the "iron gate" (v.10) opened "of its own accord."

But notice the angel doesn't give Peter any instructions after he frees Peter (v.10,11). The first time an angel freed Peter from jail, he told him to go speak the words of eternal life to people (Acts 5:19,20), *but not here*. That's because God was discontinuing His kingdom program through the 12 apostles, and starting up the *grace* program through the Apostle Paul. *Paul* was now in charge of speaking the words of eternal life, so the angel doesn't re-commission Peter to do so.

But why did God spare Peter, but allow James to be killed? There's two answers. First, when the 12 were deciding whether Paul's new ministry to the Gentiles was legit, *Peter had to stand up and testify for him* (Acts 15:7-11). But God allowed James to die because He wanted to make James and Peter types of the Lord's resurrection, like the birds that

lived and died (Lev.14:4-7), and the goats (Lev.16:3-10).

The Lord *predicted* James would be killed (Mark 10:35-40). The “cup” there was *the Lord’s death* (cf.Mt.26:39), as was the “baptism” (Lu.12:50). The word “baptism” in the Bible means *identification*. In the Bible’s first baptism, Pharaoh’s army was closing in on the Jews, so they said, as it were, “We’re with Moses,” and followed him into the Red Sea (1Cor.10:1,2). They didn’t get *wet* (Ex.14:22). They were *identified* with Moses in the sea. And when James was killed he was baptized—or *identified with*—the Lord *in His death*.

James and Peter were types of Tribulation saints, some of whom will be killed, and some of whom won’t. But *all* Tribulation saints will be able to sleep in their cells, for they’ll know that they’ll someday safely enter the kingdom (Ps.4:8). *You too* can sleep in your darkest hour, because you too have been identified with the Lord in His death when you believed (Rom.6:4), and so you can have the peace of knowing you’ll be identified with Him in His resurrection (Rom.6:5).

But God *won’t* break you out of jail. That doesn’t mean He doesn’t *care* about you. He just shows His care in a different way—a way you can see develop in Acts. He opened Paul’s prison door and released his chains like He did for Peter in Acts 16:26, but later He let Paul rot in jail *two whole years* (28:30). But He showed He cared by allowing “all” who wanted to visit him to come and minister to him (Phil.4:10, 18). Paul was “content” with that (Phil.4:11). Are you content when God doesn’t save you from your difficult circumstances, but ministers to you through His saints instead?

God told the Jews that someday *their* iron gate would open (Isa.45:1-3) and they’d rejoice in His riches. That first part happened when they were released from Babylon, but the second part won’t happen until the kingdom. Then they’ll think they’re *dreaming* (Ps.126:1-3) and sing God’s praises. And so will you someday when all *your* prisons are past!

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

July 31, 2022

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Faith Bible Church

560 East Sauk Trail

Steger, Illinois 60475

Faithbiblesteger@gmail.com

Pastor Ricky Kurth

414-719-0548 (cell)

Pastorkurth@msn.com