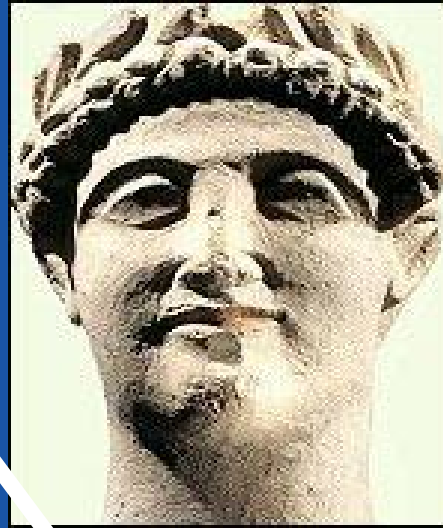


# THE HEROD'S WERE NOT JEWS

- Ancestors of the Herod dynasty were descendants of Esau and Ishmael
- *Ioudaiou* = Jews (in general), or means Judeans
- It was the Jews of Judea who were again persecuting the Believers
- Jerusalem was the power center of Judaism
- Jews who lived in the Diaspora or other parts of the Holy Land more interested in daily life and family







# PETER ARRESTED

- Arrest occurred during the Springtime feasts of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Firstfruits
- Jerusalem crowded with Jewish Pilgrims from Diaspora and Holy Land
- Terms Passover (*Pesach*) and Unleavened Bread (*Matza*) had become interchangeable
- Agrippa decided to deal with Peter after the crowds left for home



# LESSON OF ACTS 12:5

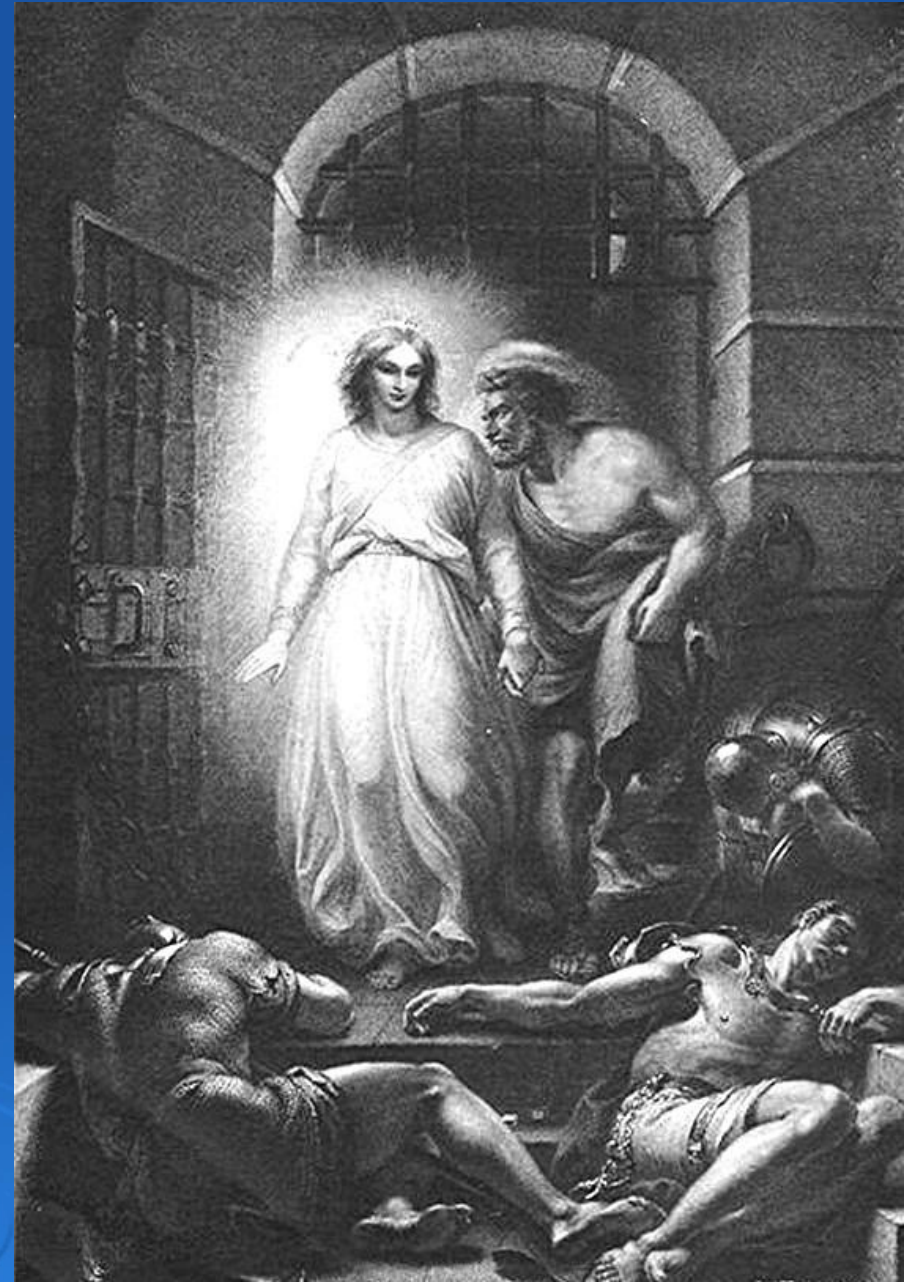
## PRAYER



- 5 points of effective prayer
- 1) Prayer should be intense, never casual
- 2) Prayer should be ongoing
- 3) Prayers should be directed to God, not through an intermediary
- 4) Pray specifically. Unspoken prayer will be unheard prayer. If it is too intimate to share with others....don't
- 5) Pray for one another as a community of Believers
- James 5:16

# PETER'S MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

- Peter was chained to 2 prison guards
- The Angel tapped Peter's side to awaken him
- Chains fell off his wrists, but somehow guards weren't disturbed
- Peter thought he was dreaming
- Angel led Peter through the Iron Gate (a city gate), but then suddenly disappeared
- Peter now realized this was an act of God





# THE UNIVERSAL CONUNDRUM

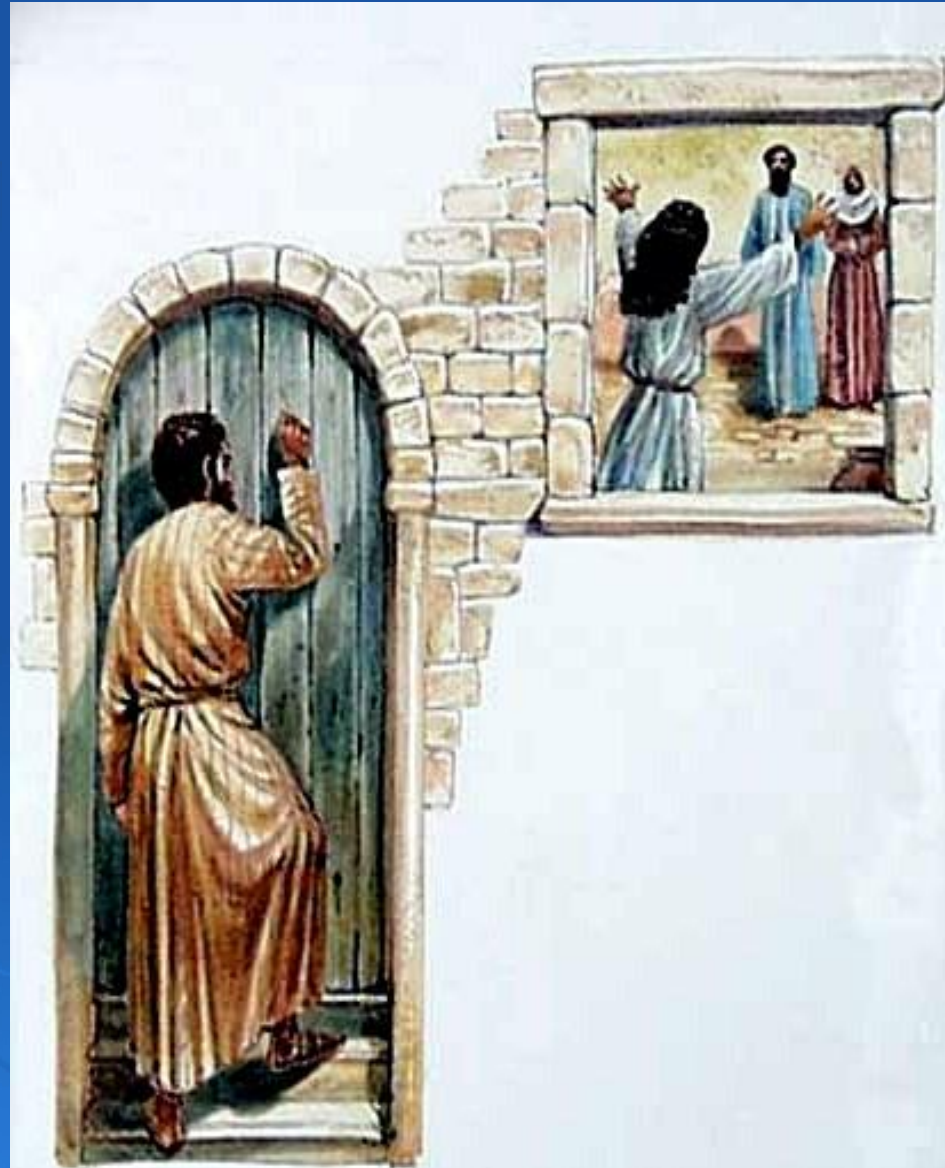


- Why did James die, but Peter lived?
- My father saw no pattern as to who lived and who died
- Was God choosing who lived and who died?
- Was it luck?
- This is when faith matters
- We have 2 choices:
  - 1) God is in control and so we have hope in mercy
  - 2) Our future is in the hands of fate, and so we have no hope



# PETER GOES TO MIRIAM'S HOUSE

- Miriam, the mother of John Mark
- Peter knocks on door, and servant girl Rhoda hears Peter's voice
- She forgets to let him in, and runs to tell the others
- The praying Believers say she's crazy!
- Someone in the room says "It's his angel"
- What does this mean?



# HEAVEN AND ANGELS

- This topic is of prime interest to Christians and to ancient Judaism
- Very little in the Bible about either subject
- Many questions about Angels and Heaven, the Bible is ambiguous about
- Almost all Angel doctrines in Christianity are manmade, originating from ancient Judaism
- Much of ancient Judaism's doctrines of Angels came from the Persians
- The thought that it was Peter's angel at the door was the result of *Halakhah*, not Biblical sources
- Jewish Believers still held to most of these Traditions

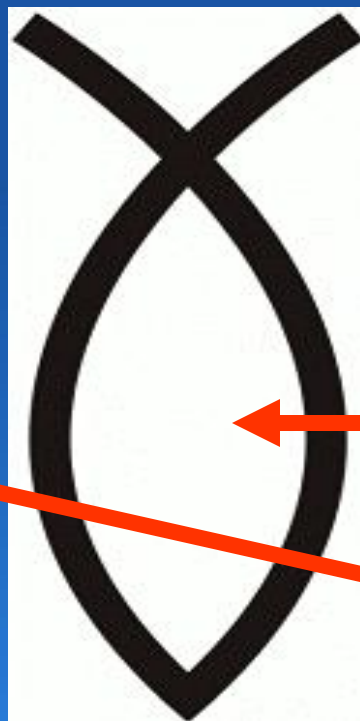




# PETER EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED



- Peter raised his hand to hush the people, told them what happened, and wanted James to know
- It was the Jews of Judea who went after the Believers
- We know that Believers sometimes met in secret locations, depending on the political climate
- The Ichthys symbol was created as a secret sign
- The 3 part symbol





# WHERE THE 3-PART SYMBOL WAS DISCOVERED

- Underground cavern with secret entrance at the bottom of a Mikveh
- Pottery with 3 part symbol dated to the time of the Apostles
- James (Jesus' brother) was in hiding, the other James killed, Peter arrested
- Events of Acts 12 occurred while James was hiding in this cavern? Yes I think so.





# AGRIPPA LEAVES JERUSALEM



- The soldiers on duty when Peter escaped are executed
- Agrippa goes to Caesarea Maritima, called “Little Rome”
- Agrippa upset with Tyre and Sidon
- Israel was their main food supplier
- They sent a delegation to smooth things over
- An Empire-wide famine was underway, as predicted by *Agav*



# THE GRUESOME DEATH OF HEROD AGRIPPA



- The delegation from Tyre and Sidon say Herod must be a god!
- Herod makes the fatal mistake of accepting this honor
- He is struck with a gastro-intestinal disease immediately, and soon dies
- “Flesh eaten by worms” used to describe the death of the unrighteous



# FOCUS SHIFTS TO THE DIASPORA AND THE GENTILES

- With Agrippa dead the persecutions calmed down
- The Word of the Lord spread
- Paul & Barnabas went to Jerusalem with famine relief funds
- Would soon return to Antioch with John Mark

