

July 23, 2023

Acts 12:6-19

Belief Systems , Firm And Flawed, Committed And Half-witted

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

V 6, Peter was trusting in the Lord so much that he was sound asleep the night before his trial. In **John 21:18** Jesus had said he would live to an old age, that was enough for him! This was not about Peter's escape, this was about his deliverance.

Vv 6-9, God does not promise deliverance from persecution and death, at crucial times He often steps in to act for the honor of His name and the benefit of His people. In this case, Peter's deliverance must be ascribed entirely to God, and through the Christian community's prayers of course. Gleaned from, *Richard N. Longenecker*

V 12, this verse introduces John Mark who would be going along with Paul on the first missionary journey. This Mark is the same Mark who penned the gospel that bears his name, see **Mark 14:51-52; I Peter 5:13**.

V 17, The James here is the Lord's half-brother, not of the James and John group, he had been killed. This James would preside over the Jerusalem council and be noted by Luke as the head of the Jerusalem church, see **Acts 15:13-21**. His life's journey had led him from unbelief in Jesus to total abandonment to Jesus. Peter left for another place. Where? We do not know. The Bible can never say what it never said, it can never mean what it never meant.

On his last night on earth, if Herod had his way, Peter was fast asleep. He had been promised by the Lord to live a long life in **John 21:18** that was enough for him! Believe His promises. By the way, what has the Lord Jesus promised you?

Application:

James, the Lord's half-brother, wrote in **James 2:19**, "You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror." (NLT) Believing about salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ is not sufficient. You have to believe in Jesus, trusting Him with all of your heart that He is the only One who can save you from your sins, see **John 14:6**. Once a person is saved they will be tested and cry out to the Lord, then the sincerity of your belief in Jesus will be revealed, see **James 1:2-18**.