The Jerusalem Church Is Miraculously Protected: God's Pattern for Deliverance from Persecution Acts 12: 01–25				
1	<ul> <li>There was the first political attack against the church</li> <li>a. By persecution</li> <li>b. By murder</li> <li>c. By imprisonment</li> </ul>	2	It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.	
			After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.	
2	<i>There was God's pattern</i> <i>for deliverance</i> a. The pattern of prayer		So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.	
	b. The pattern of confidence in God's will		The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.	
	<ul> <li>c. The pattern of God's miraculous work and the disciple's obedience</li> <li>1) "Get up" — "chains fell off"</li> </ul>		Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.	
	2) "Get dressed" — "Peter did so"		Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him.	
	3) "Get out" — "Peter followed"		Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.	

d. The pattern of God's sovereign will	<ul> <li>10 They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.</li> <li>11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches</li> </ul>
	and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating."
<ul><li>e. Results</li><li>1) Reunion of believers</li></ul>	12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.
	13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door.
2) Gladness, joy	14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"
	<ul><li>15 "You're out of your mind," they told her.</li><li>When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."</li></ul>
3) Utter astonishment	16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.
4) A declaration of God's sovereign deliverance	17 Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet
<ul> <li>5) Relief from anxiety among the leaders: James and the other leaders</li> <li>6) Escape and safety</li> </ul>	and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place.
3 There was God's sovereign wrath, His vindication of the church	18 In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter.

	a. The terrible sins of Herod	<ul><li>19 After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed. Then Herod went from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there a while.</li></ul>
	b. The terrible death of Herod	<ul> <li>20 He had been quarrelling <ul> <li>with the people of Tyre and Sidon;</li> <li>they now joined together</li> <li>and sought an audience with him.</li> <li>Having secured the support of Blastus,</li> <li>a trusted personal servant of the king,</li> <li>they asked for peace,</li> <li>because they depended on the king's country</li> <li>for their food supply.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people.
		22 They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."
		23 Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.
4	There was the church's triumphant march	24 But the word of God continued to increase and spread.
	a. The Word increased, and spread	
	<ul> <li>b. A young man is discipled, a young man destined for greatness</li> </ul>	25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.