

Sleeping Good

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Acts 12:1-4, "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."

There is a difference in the way people respond to troublesome situations. Some worry and question why the Lord let this happen to them. Others accept what is going on and look to the Lord saying, "Thy will be done." What do you do when trials come your way?

Peter was persecuted like most of the early Christians. Jesus had told them that they would be hated just as the world hated Him, and so it was. James was killed and Peter was to be killed in a short time according to the plan of Herod, the king. Peter was considered a prisoner that needed to be kept secure so there were sixteen soldiers charged with guarding him. Although

the scripture says Easter, the Passover was meant, and after that Peter was to be killed as James was.

What would you have thought if you were in prison and knew that in a short while you were to be killed for serving God? Would you weep and cry out to the Lord all the time that you were in chains? Sleep might be the last thing that most people would be able to do, because of the stress and fear of death. However, Peter did just that, he lay down and slept, seemingly without a care in the world. **Acts 12:5**, "Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. "And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison."

How could he do such a thing? Could you, or I, do it? If we had the faith that Peter had we could do it just as he did. Jesus had told Peter, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not." **John 21:18**. He had learned the hard way that the Lord knew what he was talking about so he trusted him completely. Peter knew that what Herod had

planned was not going to happen without God's approval. He believed Jesus and turned his concerns and fears away, while trusting in faith in the Lord.

Peter could feel the chains, he could see the prison bars and stones, as well as the numerous guards. These were supposed to make him fearful and cause him to doubt. They don't work on someone who is full of faith in God. There is no room for both faith and fear in a man's heart, one has to go. Since that painful night when Peter had been fearful and denied Jesus he had rejected the doubts and fear. Now he walked in faith, no longer trusting in his own strength, but in the Lord.

We will also face trials in our lives and need to be ready to meet them. Remember Jesus said, "According to your faith be it unto you," in **Matthew 9:29**. If our faith is weak so will our stand against evil. Get into the word of God and listen to him, for faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (**Romans 10:17**.) Read and see what the Lord says in his word. Sometimes someone will tell you that the bible doesn't mean what it says so be careful who you listen to. Believe God and walk with him, trusting him from the heart. When we do this we too can sleep amid the trials of life.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

ABRAM IN EGYPT
THE EGYPTIAN PRINCES HAVE NOW LEARNED FROM MERCHANTS THAT AN EASTERN BEAUTY IS LIVING IN THE LAND - JUST SUCH A THING AS ABRAM HAS FEARED MIGHT HAPPEN, IS HAPPENING....

WE MUST SEE THIS BEAUTY FROM THE EAST WITH OUR OWN EYES!

...AND ABRAM FINALLY HEARS THE APPROACH OF THEIR HORSES....

...SO NOW, BEING HIGH-BORN NOBLES, THEY ENTER ABRAM'S CAMP, DEMANDING TO SEE THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN....

...AND ALONE, A STRANGER IN THE LAND, ABRAM CAN DO NOTHING BUT COMPLY!

HOW TRUE! HOW TRUE! BY ALL THE GODS OF THE LAND, THIS IS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN! THESE PRINCES ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF BEAUTY AND APPRECIATIVE OF OPPORTUNITY ALSO! THE PHARAOH WILL SURELY REWARD ANY MAN WHO CAN LEAD HIM TO A PRIZE SUCH AS THIS! AH, YES, THIS BEAUTY BECOMES EVEN MORE SO IN THE EYES OF THESE BEHOLDERS....

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