

Chapter 12

Herod the first King that persecuted the Church, hauing at Hierusalem (when Barnabas and Saul were there with the collation of the Antiochians) killed Iames the Apostle, 3. & to please the Iewes imprisoned Peter with the mind to kil him also, but frustrate by an Angel sent of God at the continual prayers of the Church made for her cheefe Pastour, 19. being puffed vp with such pride that at Cæsaria he refuseth not to be honoured as God; 23. is miraculouly striken of Gods Angel. 24. And so after the persecutors death, the Churches preaching prospereth exceedingly.

And at the same time Herod the King set his hands, to afflict certaine of the Church. ² And he killed Iames the brother of Iohn with the sword. ³ And feing that it pleased the Iewes, he added to apprehend Peter also. And it was the daies of the Azymes. ⁴ Whom when he had apprehended, he cast into prifon, deliuering him to ^afour quaternions of fouldiars to be kept, meaning after the Pasche to bring him forth to the people. ⁵ And Peter indeed was kept in prifon. But [¶]praiser was made of the Church without intermission vnto God for him. ⁶ And when Herod would haue brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping betweene two fouldiars, bound with [¶]two chaines: and the keepers before the doore kept the prifon. ⁷ And behold an Angel of our Lord stood in prefence: and light shined in the house: and striking Peters side, he raised him, saying: Arise quickly. And the chaines fel from his hands. ⁸ And the Angel said to him: Gird thee, and put on thy shoes. And he did so. And he said to him: Put thy garment about thee, & follow me. ⁹ And going forth he followed him, & he knew not that it was true which

^a As Peters person was more notorious then others, & therefore better garded then other, for feare he should escape; so Gods providence in preferuing & deliuering him for the longer gouernement of his Church, is very maruelous.

was done by the Angel: but he thought that he saw a vision. ¹⁰ And passing through the first & the second watch, they came to the iron gate that leadeth to the citie, which of it self opened to them. And going out, they went forward one street: and incontinent the Angel departed from him. ¹¹ And Peter returning to himself, said: Now I know in very deed that our Lord hath sent his Angel, and delivered me out of Herods hand, & from all the expectation of the people of the Iewes.

¹² And considering, he came to the ^ahouse of Marie the mother of Iohn, who was surnamed Marke, where many were gathered and praying. ¹³ And when he knocked at the doore of the gate, there came forth a wench to see, named Rhode. ¹⁴ And as she knew Peters voice, for joy she opened not the gate, but running in she told that Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ But they said to her: Thou art mad. But she affirmed that it was so. But they said: It is ^his Angel. ¹⁶ And Peter continued knocking. And when they had opened, they saw him, & were astonished. ¹⁷ And beckning with his hand to them, that they should hold their peace, he told how our Lord had brought him out of prison, & he said: ^hTell these things to Iames & to the Brethren. And going forth he went ^binto another place. ¹⁸ And when day was come, there was no little ado betweene the souldiars, what was become of Peter. ¹⁹ And Herod, when he had sought him, and had not found, making inquisition of the keepers, commanded them to be led away: & going downe from Iewrie into Cæsarea, there he abode. ²⁰ And he was angry with the Tyrians and the Sidonians. But they with one accord came to him, and persuading Blaftus that was cheefe of the Kings chamber, they desired peace, for that their

^a It is much for the praise of these good Christiāns that the assemblie to Gods seruice & praier was kept in their houses in the time of perfection, & that the Apostle came thither straight out of prison, as his first refuge; as now Christian people doe much to their commendatiō, in places where Heresie doth reigne.

^b Though God had so miraculously delivered him, yet he would not tempt God by tarying among his persecutors, but according to Christes commandement fled for a time.

countries were nourished by him. ²¹ And vpon a day appointed, Herod being araied with kingly attire, fate in the iudgement feate, and made an oration to them. ²² And the people made acclamation, The voices of a God, & not of a man. ²³ And forthwith an Angel of our Lord ^aftrook him, becaufe he had not giuen the honour to God: and being confumed of wormes, he gaue vp the ghoft. ²⁴ But the word of our Lord increafed and multiplied. ²⁵ And Barnabas and Saul returned from Hierufalem, hauing accomplifhed their minifterie, taking with them Iohn that was furnamed Marke.

Act. 11, 19.

ANNOTATIONS

5 Praier was made.) The Church praied inceffantly for her cheefe Paftour, and was heard of God: and al Chriftian people are warned thereby to pray for their Bifhopes and Paftours in prifon.

6 Two chaines.) Thefe chaines are famous for miracles, and were brought from Hierufalem to Rome by Eudoxia the Empereffe, wife to Theodofius the yonger, where they were matched & placed with another chaine that the fame Apoftle was tied with by Nero, & a Church founded therevpon, name *Petri ad vincula*; where they are religioufly kept and reuerenced vntil this day: & there is a Feaft in the whole Church for the fame, the firft of Auguft, which we cal *Lammas day*.

S. Peters chaines.

15 His Angel.) *If proper Angels* (faith S. Chryfoftom) *be deputed by our Lord to fuch as haue only charge of their owne life, (as one of the iuft faid, The Angel which hath deliuered me from my youth vpwrd) much more are fupernal Spirits at hand to help them vnto whom the charge and burden of the world is committed. Chrys. in laud. Pauli. ho. 7. to. 3.*

Gen. 48, 16.

Patronage of Angels.

17 Tel Iames.) He willeth them to fhew this to S. Iames Bifhop of Hierufalem and to the Chriftians, that they might fee the effect of their praiers for him, & giue God thankes. For S. Iames no doubt published common praier for S. Peter.

Publike praier for S. Peter the Head.

^a Princes that take delight in the flattery & praifes of the people, fo much that they forget themfelues to be men, & to giue the honour to God, may be warned by this exāple.