

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 miraculouſly ſtricken of Gods Angel. 24. And ſo after the persecutours 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 ſeing that it pleaſed the Iewes, he added to apprehend Peter alſo. And it was the daies of the Azyμες. ⁴ Whom when he had apprehended, he caſt into priſon, deliuering him to ^afour quaternions of ſouldiars to be kept, meaning after the Paſche to bring him forth to the people. ⁵ And Peter indeed was kept in priſon. But [¶]prayer 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 ſouldiars, bound with [¶]two chaines: and the keepers before the doore kept the priſon. ⁷ And behold an Angel of our Lord ſtood in preſence: 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 prouidence 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 Jewes.

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 io 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 Blaesus that was cheefe of the Kings chamber, they desired peace, for

^a It is much for the praise of these good Christiāns that the assemblie to Gods service & prayer was kept in their houses in the time of persecution, & that the Apostles 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 tarrying among his persecutors, but according to Christes commandement fled for a time.

that their 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 ^a)ftrook 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 accomplished 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 thanks. 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.