

42 AD – PETER RESCUED FROM PRISON BY HOLY ANGEL

“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.” (Isaiah 2 v 11)

EVENTS IN 42 AD

King Herod seized Peter during the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Acts 12 v 3) which is a seven day feast which starts on the fifteenth day of the first month (Lev. 23 v 6). He was held in prison until he could be tried after the Passover (Acts 12 v 4). Passover takes place on the fourteenth day of the first month (Lev. 23 v 5). The only way this could happen was if Peter was held for a whole year until the next Passover. Since James was martyred in **41 AD** (see our paper [41 AD](#)) this means Peter escaped from prison in **42 AD**.

PETER IS HUMBLD... YET AGAIN

On the eve of the trial Peter was in jail asleep. The saints at John Mark's house were up all night praying for him to be delivered by a miracle. The Angel of the LORD struck Peter to wake him up and told him to put clothes on, for he was lying naked. Peter was then led out of the prison. He went to the house of John Mark and knocked on the door.

“And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.” (Acts 12:13-17)

How humbling for Peter. By his own power he couldn't even open the door of a house. He knocks and knocks in vain. The prayers of the saints were powerful enough to break his chains and open the gates in the prison of Herod. Yet even Peter's request to the young girl Rhoda to open the door goes answered. Peter is standing out in the cold. Alone in the street.

When Peter gets inside what does he find? John Mark, his mother, and many other people praying for him. What does he not find? He does not find any of the apostles there praying

for his release.¹ Peter must have understood that he has so ingratiated himself with the other apostles that they were not bothered to pray for his life. This is not the only hint we have that Peter and the other apostles were not speaking to each another. When Paul came to Jerusalem to visit he found Peter alone (see our paper [39 AD](#)). After 15 days spent with Peter Paul did not come across one other apostle – except James and only briefly (Gal. 1:18-19).

Peter did not stay long with the saints at John Mark's house. He went somewhere else. Why? Peter was sad. He thought he had become something great – like the apostle over all the rest of the apostles. The truth was his spiritual pride reduced him to a pitiful state – naked and asleep in chains. Were it not for the prayers of the lowly saints of God he would be dead.

PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 2 V 11

“The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.” (Isaiah 2 v 11)

God does not esteem people who think they are the super-apostle! God esteems the one who is lowly of spirit: **‘For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, says the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.’** (Isaiah 66:2)

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter 2 of Isaiah is the 2nd chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number 2 means ‘Division’ or ‘Discern’

This event marked a division in the life of Peter. During his days as a disciple he rebuked Jesus to his face and was told ‘Get behind me Satan’. He denied Christ three times before the cock crowed and wept. After the resurrection he went back fishing and had to be told in person by the LORD three times to return to his apostleship and feed the sheep. Finally after his near death experience, Peter's pride was broken. He would walk a humble man after this. When

¹ He had to ask the saints to ‘tell James and the brothers about this’.

Paul challenged him on his hypocrisy regarding the circumcision, Peter repented because he had become teachable. At the Jerusalem Council Peter made a strong appeal in the debate (Acts 15:7-11). Paul and Barnabus shared their testimony (Acts 15:12). But the assembly looked to James for the final word on the matter (Acts 15:13-21). This was fine with Peter.

PART TWO

Isaiah 2 v 11 is the **17,697th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen 1 v 1.

The number **17,697 = 17 x 1041**

The spiritual meaning of **17** is 'Victory'

The spiritual meaning of **1041** is 'Child of God Tells the Truth'

The prophecy of Isaiah is amazing. Rhoda 'the child told the truth' '**Peter is at the door**'. And the saints did not believe her that God had won a great 'victory'.

PART THREE

Isaiah 2 v 11 is the **42nd** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah 1 v 1.

The spiritual meaning of **42** is 'Evil Man'

Peter was humbled. He had become such an 'Evil Man' that his own closest companions, James and the brothers, simply detested him. Sixteen soldiers were executed by King Herod so that God could break Peter's proud heart.

APPLICATION

Dear believers.

Not one of us is greater than any other of us. There are no 'super-apostles' in the mind of God. The one who is like a little child among us is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.

A special bond was created between Peter and John Mark. Peter dictated his account of the gospel of Jesus. Mark wrote it down. Peter insisted it be called the Gospel of Mark. He did not deem himself worthy to have a gospel in his own name.