

Comparison of Peter and Paul in Prison

Peter Acts 12:1-19	Paul Acts 16:19-40
Held in Jerusalem under order of King Herod	Held in Philippi under the order of the local magistrates
Held during the Passover before Paul's first missionary journey	Held during Paul's second missionary journey
Imprisoned by Herod to gain political favor for Herod	Falsely accused of disrupting the peace and disregarding Roman law and customs
Imprisoned after the execution of James	Stripped and beaten along with Silas
Guarded by four groups of four soldiers each (16 soldiers)	Held in the inner cells, a very secure part of the prison, with one jailer
Bound with two chains between two soldiers	Bound with chains and stocks
The church prayed earnestly for his release	Paul and Silas were earnestly praying and worshipping
Peter was sleeping just before the miracle took place at night	Paul and Silas were singing and praying just before the miracle took place
An angels appeared	A violent earthquake happened
The angel shone a light in the cell	The prison foundations were shaken
The angel struck Peter on the head to wake him	The jailer was awoken by the earthquake
The chains fell from Peter's body	Everyone's chains and bonds were loosed
The angel instructed Peter to arise and prepare to depart the prison	The Holy Spirit instructed Paul and Silas to remain in the prison
The doors and gates miraculously opened	The doors opened miraculously (but no one, not even the other prisoners, escaped).
The guards did not notice Peter's departure	The guard thought everyone had escaped and prepared to kill himself
Peter went to a nearby house church to testify of his release	Paul spoke out to save the guard's life and the guard was saved both physically and spiritually. The guard took Paul and Silas to his house and helped the church to be planted in Philippi
Peter went into hiding	Paul and Silas were personally escorted from the prison because the magistrates wanted to appease them for illegally beating and imprisoning them (it was not lawful to beat a Roman citizen without proper trials).