

Rapture Typology in Acts 12

Peter Returns to the Church like a Thief in the Night

The Typology of Peter as the Resurrected Christ (First Coming):

Acts 12:1 - Herod, “the king,” seeks to do evil to the Body of Christ. He is a type of “the Beast” (Antichrist), a tool of Satan sent to devour the Church. See also Revelation 12:4.

Acts 12:2 - James (literally, “Jacob” in the original text) is killed. John is spared. Think: *Jacob’s Trouble*. John, who remains until Jesus comes (John 21:22), does not die (as a type of the Church, he is taken to heaven prior to the time of Jacob’s Trouble in Revelation 4:1).

Acts 12:3 - The Jews play the Harlot in league with Herod (the Beast). This toxic union is cemented in the nearby context of Acts 12:11. See Revelation 17:1-6.

****[Strong’s 4815](#), *sullambano*, “to seize, apprehend, arrest, take away” is used in context of Jesus’ arrest (see Matthew 26:55; Mark 14:48; Luke 22:54; John 18:12; Acts 1:16).****

Acts 12:4 - The word “four” is emphasized (x2), “...four sets of four soldiers to guard him...” Think: The *four* beasts of Daniel 7:3, 17, 19. See also Revelation 13.

Acts 12:5-6 - Peter is “sleeping,” and the prison “door” is guarded by soldiers. This mirrors the sealed tomb, where Jesus’ body was kept (see Matthew 27:65-66).

Acts 12:7 - The angel “strikes the side” of Peter just as Jesus’ side was struck while on the cross. However, the strike on Peter’s side is a reversal

of sorts (the curse reversed). Instead of a death blow, when the angel strikes Peter, he awakens and is told to “rise up” (resurrection to life).

****[Strong's 4125](#), *pleura*, “side” is an unmistakable connection to the other uses of the Greek term in the New Testament, especially the accounts of Jesus' Passion (see Matthew 27:49; John 19:34; 20:20, 25, 27)****

Recap:

- **Peter is a type of Christ at His First Coming:** The apostle is arrested, sleeps in a guarded prison (tomb), and rises up/resurrects by the power of God—*all at the time of Passover!*

The Typology of Peter as the Thief in the Night (Second Coming):

Acts 12:13 - Here is an excellent summary about the meaning of “Rhoda” from Bible Hub's site ([Strong's 4498](#)): *“Rhoda's brief appearance leaves a lasting imprint: a servant girl, listening for the knock of deliverance, becomes a messenger of answered prayer. Her narrative invites every generation of Christians to pair fervent intercession with watchful expectancy, rejoicing when God opens prison doors and ushering rescued saints into the fellowship of the praying church.”*

****[Strong's 2925](#), *krouo*, “to knock” is used in contexts of watchfulness such as Luke 12:36, “...be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks...” and [Revelation 3:20](#), “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”**

Acts 12:14-15 - If you have ever been accused by other Christians of being “out of your mind,” then you are in good company—especially if you have been proclaiming from the rooftops that Jesus is at the door! You are the Rhodas of the Laodicean era at the end of the Church Age. *Rise up, Rhodas!*

Acts 12:16-17 - Peter (Christ) returns to the gathering at Mary's house (the Church), and they "see him" and are "amazed." Curiously, the apostle signals for them to be silent, which is a prefiguring of the "thief in the night" return of Christ for His Bride.

Acts 12:19 - Peter, a type of the risen and "hidden" Christ, returns to the Church and leaves again "to another place." The text says that Herod "sought after him" but "did not find him." See Revelation 12:4-5!

Acts 12:19-20 - After the Resurrection/Rapture typology, the Antichrist figure makes a grand reappearance in the narrative, "*And Herod having sought after him and not having found him...*" He is nowhere to be found! As a result, Herod was "furiously angry" and "goes down" to mediate a peace agreement! See 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4 and **Revelation 12:12-13!**

Acts 12:22-23 - Herod (the Antichrist/Beast) is declared "a god" and worshipped by men. As a result, he is struck down by the Lord. See Revelation 13:4-8; 19:19-21.

Recap:

- **Peter is a type of Christ at His Second Coming:** The apostle returns to the Church as a thief in the night; some in the Church are sleeping, some are awake (Rhoda); after Herod cannot find him (Rapture), the Antichrist figure wrathfully engages in a peace agreement.

Bottom Line: Acts 12 prefigures what the rest of the Bible teaches *in sequential or chronological order*—the Resurrection of Christ, the Return of Christ to His Church, the Rapture, the Peace Agreement of the Antichrist, the Worship of the Antichrist, and the Demise of the Antichrist.