



LIBERTY CHURCH EDMOND

Following Christ in Every Area of Life

12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.



6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

Prayer that *WORKS*



The Situation

About 8 years after the ascension:

- There was a famine in the land.
- The Nazarenes were experiencing open persecution and martyrdom
- Herod Agrippa I was ruler of Judea appointed by Caligula
 - He is the grandson of Herod the Great. He is the nephew of Herod Antipas who murdered John the Baptist.
 - Pleased the Jews and persecuted the Christians
- James, the brother of John, killed by order of Agrippa
- Peter was imprisoned and awaiting death after the Passover Feast



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Acts 12:5

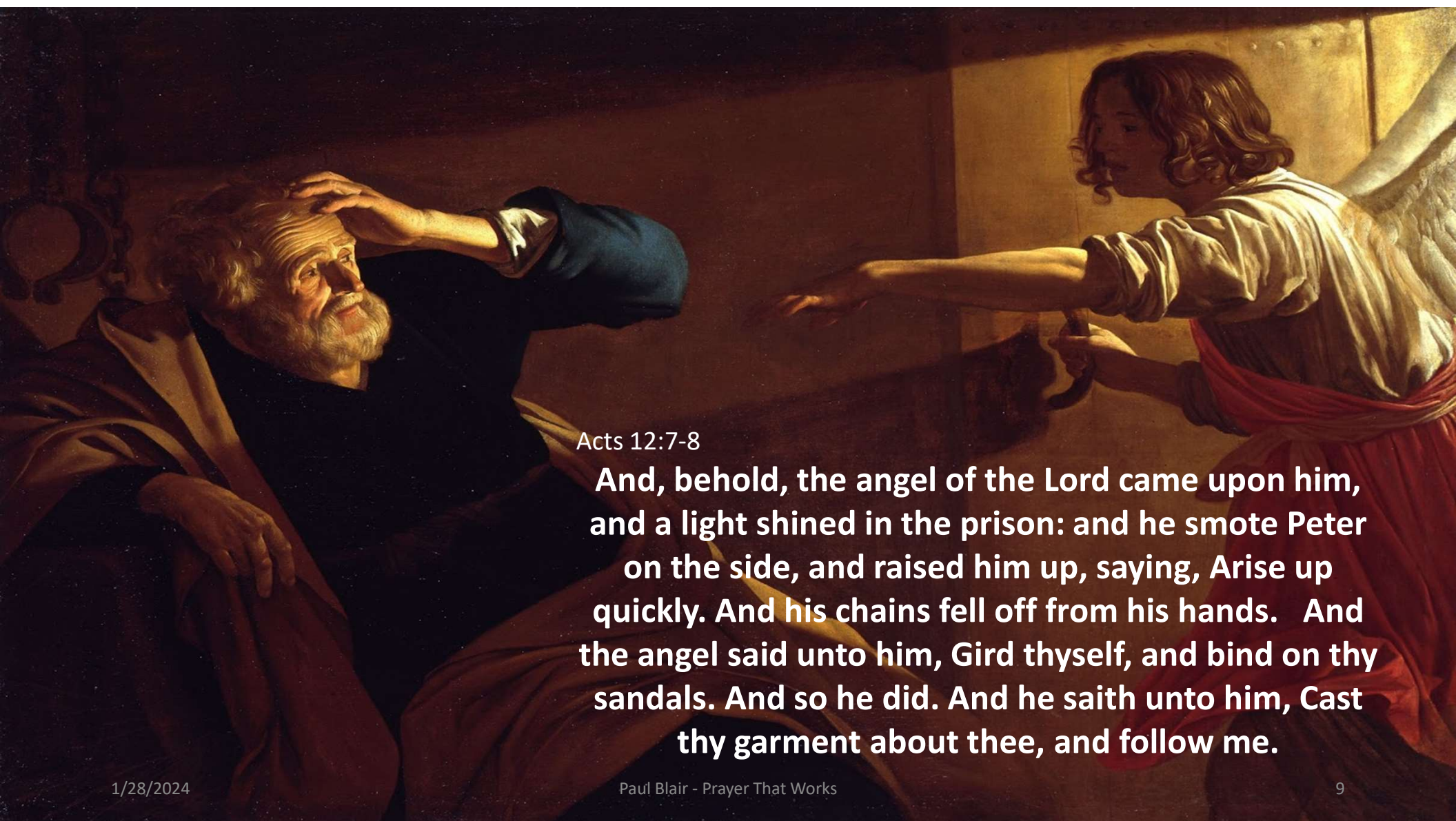
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Acts 12:6

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Acts 12:7-8

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

Acts 12:9-10

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.



Acts 12:11

And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.



Acts 12:12-17

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. **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.

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#1: Peter was in the will of God and following the clear direction of God.





Reasons for Suffering:

1. **Disobedience**
2. **Consequences**
3. **Glory of God/Growth**
 - James 1: “Count it all joy...”

- **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- **1 Thess 4:3** For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:
- **Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- **Eph 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
- **Eph 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- **Eph 5:22** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.
- **Prov 13:24** He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.
- **2 Cor 6:14** Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
- **2 Thess 3:10** ...if any would not work, neither should he eat.

**#2: They did what they could do. This church
Prayed specifically, relentlessly and confidently.**



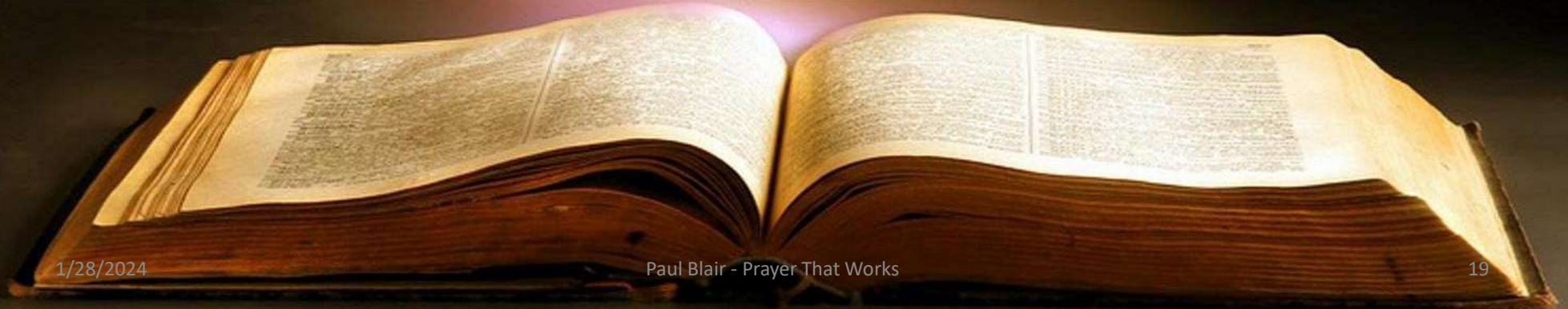
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Luke 11:5-8

And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, **lend me three loaves**; For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, **yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.**



Luke 18:2-5

There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; **Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.**



#3: They submitted to God's verdict. The church had complete faith in the Power of God and His ability to answer prayer, otherwise they wouldn't have been praying. They laid their petition out at Jesus feet, but they didn't know what God's answer would be.

Acts 12:2 And he (Herod Agrippa) killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Dan 3:16-18

O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Acts 12:12-17

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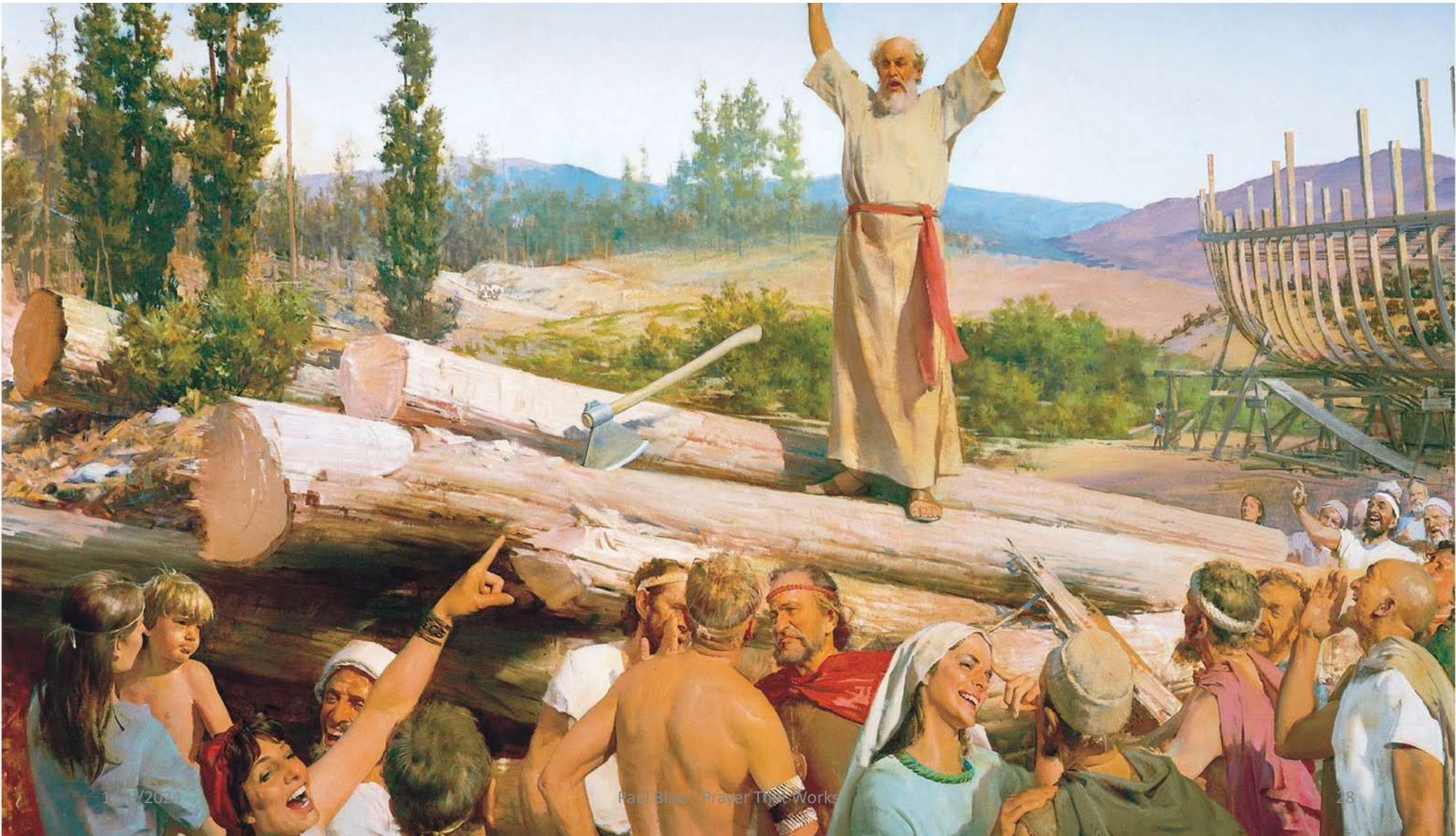


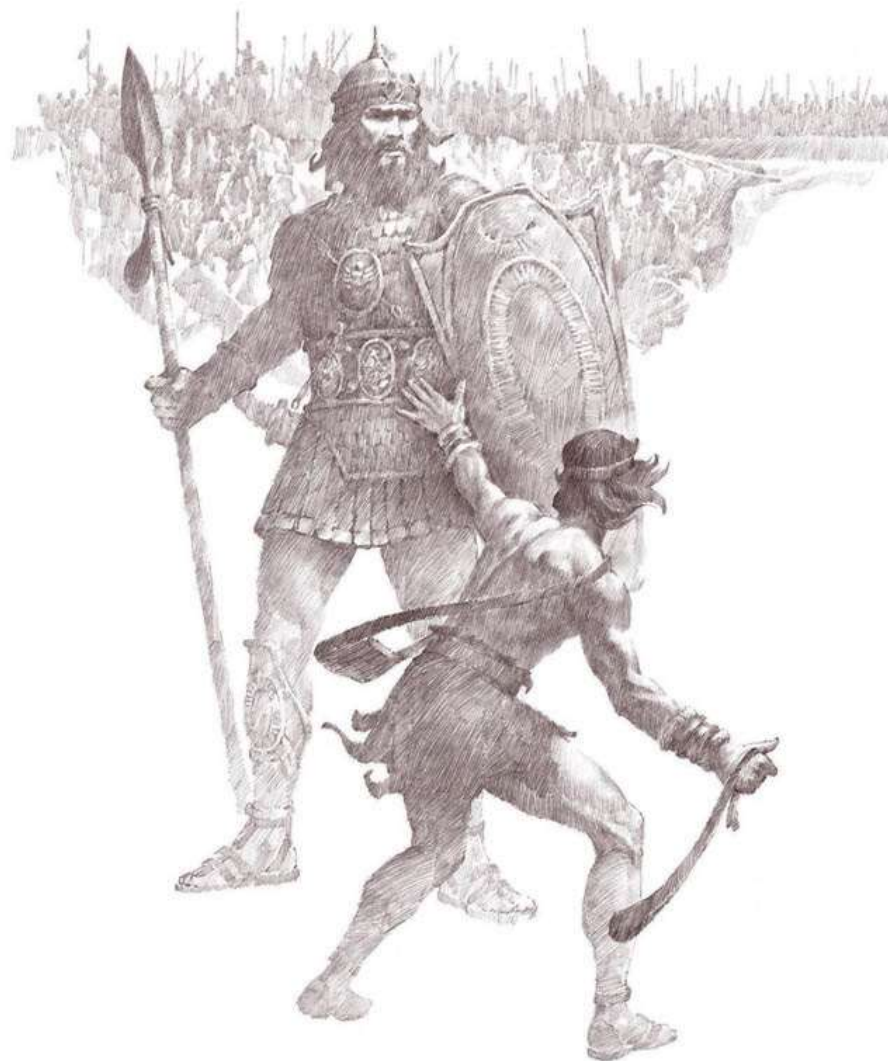
#4: After you've sought God's will, and prayed specifically and persistently – work with all your might.



Acts 12:7-10

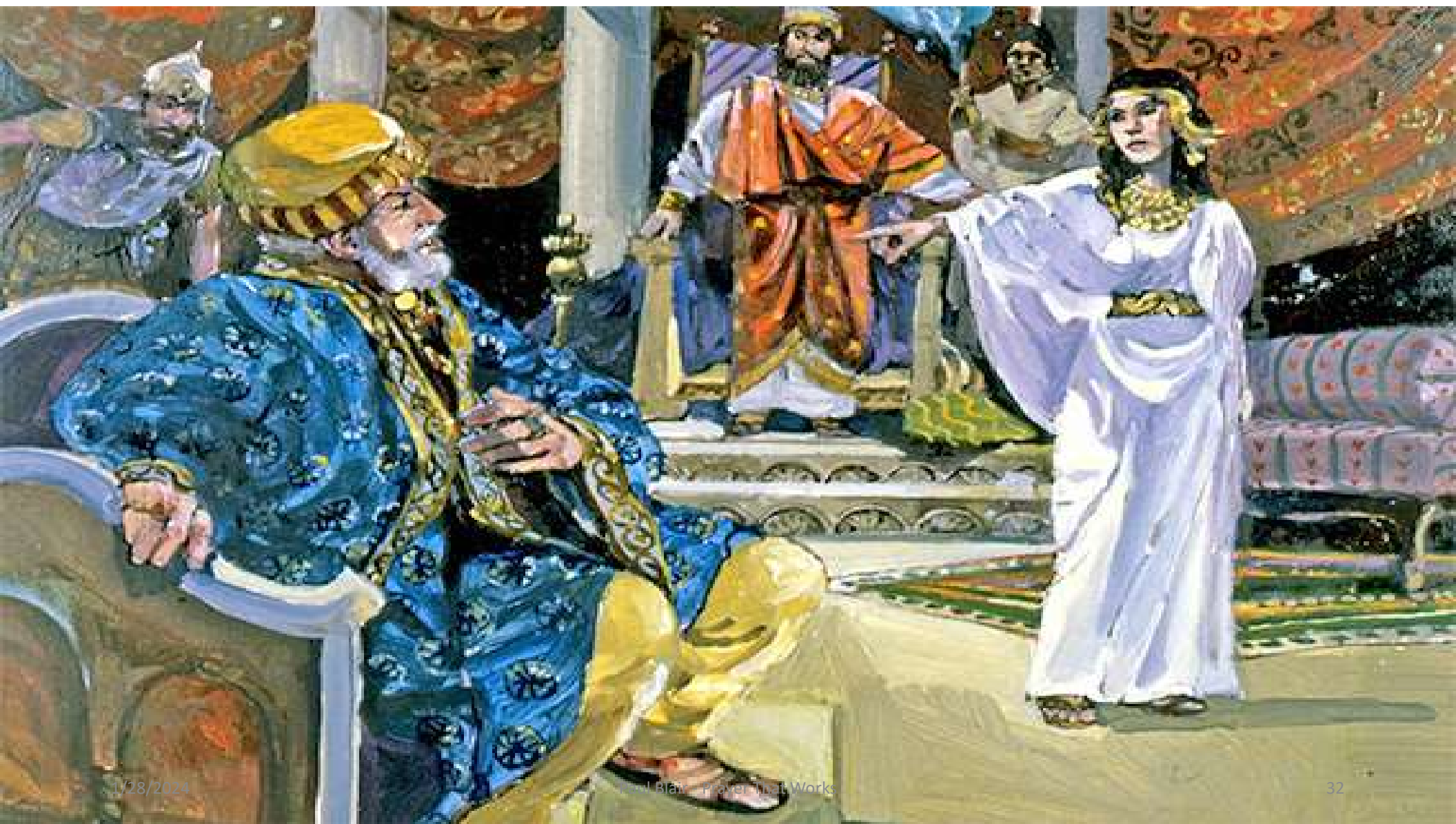
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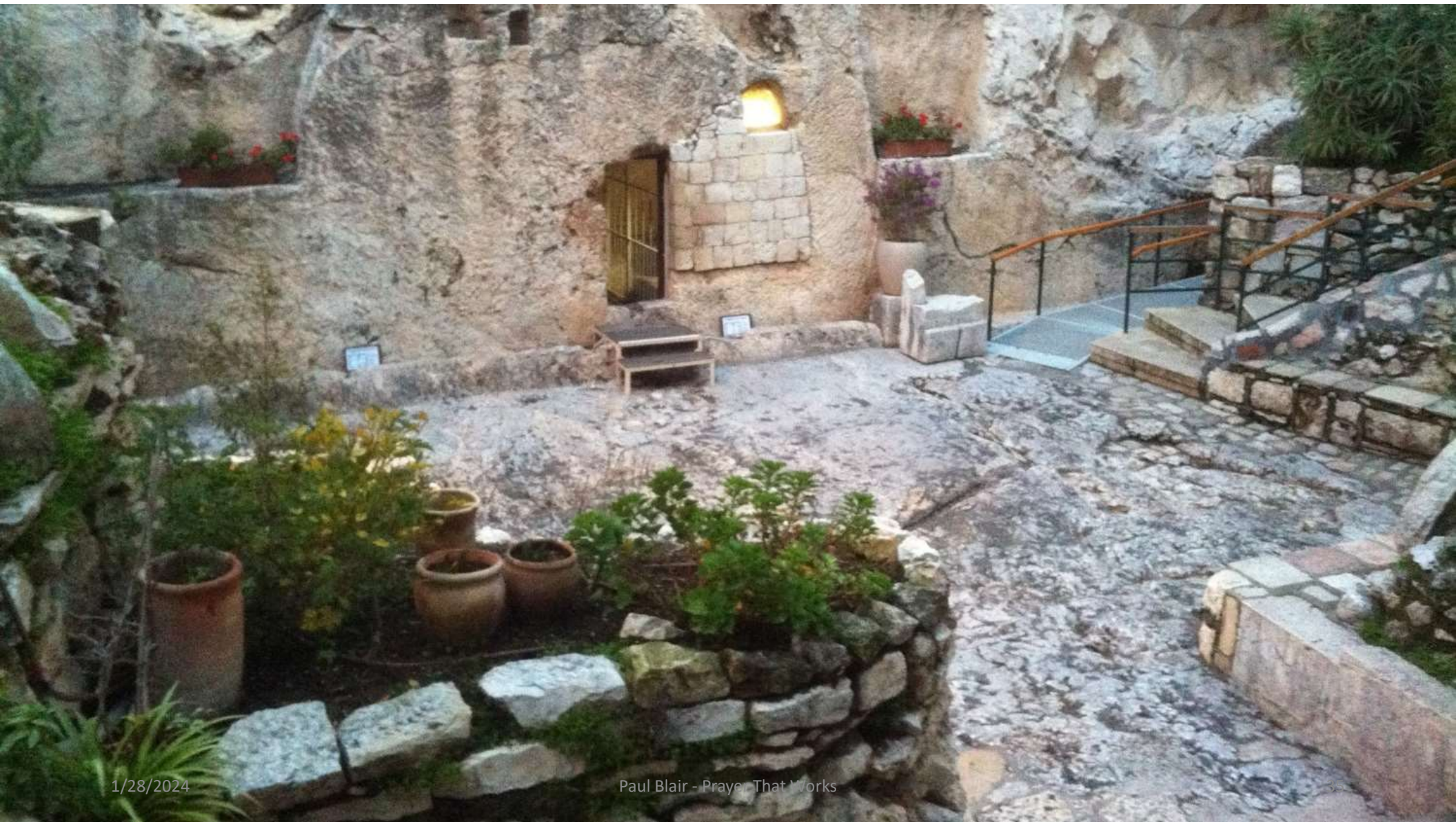
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**God does the impossible.
We do the possible.
Prayer that WORKS!**



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