

## ASTONISHED

Fell James one day  
To the tyrant Herod's sword  
His crimes? The preaching of the word  
And believing in the Lord  
It pleased the king  
To please the unbelieving Jew  
And so imprisoned Peter as  
His wretched status grew

With Peter bound  
Amid the num'rous guards displayed  
The little church at Mary's house  
Bowed, and fervent prayed!  
It pleased the Lord  
To hear the small but faithful crew  
And answered with an angel sent  
To do what angels do!

Astonished! Beyond belief  
A vision! Peter thought at first  
Then found himself from dungeon freed  
And freed from Herod's worst  
To Mary's home  
And to her outer gate he walked  
Drew breath and clenched a trembling fist  
Then began to knock

Astonished! Beyond belief  
Rhoda heard him at the gate  
This joy-filled servant's gospel ran  
(Leaving Peter there to wait)  
Astonished! Why, it can't be true  
They wondrous walked to where  
Those praying, doubting, skeptic few  
Saw God would answer prayer!

Astonished! Herod heard  
The unexpected, startling word  
And in his temper things went hard  
For that ill-fated Roman guard

Fell Herod one day  
To a **Word**, sharper than a two-edged sword  
For claiming stature that belongs  
Only to the Lord  
Poor Herod  
Must one, last lesson learn

How astonishing God can really be  
When worms begin to turn!

“But Peter kept on knocking, and when  
they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished.”

Acts 12:16  
New International Version