

# God Chooses Our Path

*Acts 12:1-11*

James, the brother of John, was arrested and killed (*Acts 12:2*); Peter was arrested and was miraculously released (*Acts 12:3-11*). God's plan for James was different from His plan for Peter. James was the first of the twelve disciples to die the death of a martyr. His brother John lived a long life and wrote his epistles and the book of Revelation toward the end of the first century. While some think John may have been martyred, John Foxe wrote, "He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death, and lived the longest of any, he being nearly 100 years of age at the time of his death."

These brothers illustrate that God has a different and unique plan for each of our lives. Our times are in His hands (*Psalms 31:15*). His plan for one is not His plan for another. In His grace, we are each treated individually. The godly saint, Robert McCheyne, died at the young age of 29. John Brainard, devoted missionary to the American Indians, also died at age 29. On the other hand, the great man of faith and prayer, George Muller, died at age 92. Likewise, brilliant creationist and nationally known Bible teacher, Dr. John Whitcomb was very active in the Lord's service up to his death at age 95.

When the Lord Jesus foretold Peter's death, Peter immediately asked about John, "What shall this man do?" (*John 21:21*). Jesus answered, "If I will [desire] that he tarry [remain alive] till I come, what is that to thee? **Follow thou Me**" (*John 21:22*).

A short life is not necessarily an incomplete life. The issue is not how long we live, but how well we live; and the faithful servant of the Lord knows that he is immortal until his work is done for Him. James finished the work that God had for him to do.

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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