

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-25 __ Lesson 31

Herod's Sword and the Remnant

1. Acts 12:1 - Herod

- a. Herod the king – a false king, as Jesus was the true king of Israel.
- b. The family of Herods were Gentile (Idumean), but claimed Jewish privilege/position
- c. Herods renown for their violence/opposition → Mt 2:1-16, 14:1-6, Acts 12:2, 25-26
- d. *“the church”* – a generic word, the assembly of those called by the Lord – Acts 7:38
- e. The difference → Israel & Body of Christ(not Israel); New covenant & New creature

2. Acts 12:2-3 – A Dead Apostle

- a. James' death indicates diminishing apostolic kingdom authority – Mtt 19:28
- b. The apostles protected through Acts 1-8, Luke 12:10-18... but now James dies
- c. *“it pleased the Jews”* – indicates that Jerusalem rejected kingdom/king/apostles
- d. Some are taken and some are left – Peter remains. A remnant is there.

3. Acts 12:4-17 – Peter's Deliverance

- a. Peter in prison (not new – Lk 22:33, Acts 4, 5), people prayed for him - 1 Pe 3:12
- b. Peter was sleeping perhaps because he remembered John 21:18-19
- c. Angels → ministering spirits Heb 1:14 – hosts of the Lord to help the remnant of Israel – Isa 37:32 – and to bring in the kingdom – Isa 9:7, Rev 7:1
- d. 12:9-11 - Peter thought it was another vision until the angel left.
- e. 12:10 – The angel led Peter outside the city, he did all but shake the dust off
- f. *“expectation of the people of the Jews”* – to kill Christ's apostles, reject Holy Ghost
- g. 12:12 – Mary, the sister of Barnabas, the uncle of John Mark
- h. 12:13-16 - *“thou art mad”* – They did not believe Rhoda... *“they were astonished”*
- i. 12:17 - What the angel did not say → Acts 5:20 – Peter went to a private location.

4. Acts 12:18-25 – The Judgment of Herod

- a. Peter was hiding, the prisoners are killed, and the only thing saved is the remnant.
- b. There was famine remember, Tyre & Sidon could not survive without Herod
 - i. Does this sound familiar? Rev 11:13 witnesses die in Jerusalem; Rev 12 – the remnant is persecuted; Rev 13 you can't eat without the beast?
 - ii. Acts 12 is not Revelation fulfilled, because the kingdom doesn't come.
- c. *“voice of a god”* – They rejected Christ, but accepted a king in royal apparel
- d. *“word of God grew”* – Herod a foreshadow of 2 Thess 2:3-8, Matt 24:15
- e. In contrast to the apostate Tyre and Sidon, James warns the remnant – Jam 2:2-4
 - i. There are antichrists abroad - 1 John 2:22-23, 1 John 4:3
- f. Herod / Jews intended evil, God would use for good... Rom 11:11
...God's grace goes elsewhere.