

A Fallen King and A Growing Kingdom!

God Judges a Blasphemous King as He blesses His Obedient Church

Acts 12:18-25

The Fall of an Evil King.

- ❖ Herod was the king of Judea from AD 41-44, grandson of Herod the Great, and nephew of Herod Antipas.
 - ↳ Herod (Agrippa I) was thirsty for power and the praise of the people he ruled.
Acts 12:2-3 “He [Herod] killed James the brother of John with the sword, ³and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.”
 - ↳ When he lost his prized prisoner, Peter, Herod had the sentries put to death.
Acts 12:18-19a “Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death.”
 - ↳ Herod was in Caesarea, and he was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon.
Acts 12:20 “Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king’s chamberlain, they asked for peace...”
 - ↳ These people asked for peace from the king, since they depended on the king’s provision.
Acts 12:20b “...they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king’s country for food.”
 - ↳ Herod made an appearance, which inspired the crowd to praise him as if he were a god.
Acts 12:21-22 “On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²²And the people were shouting, ‘The voice of a god, and not of a man!’”
 - ↳ Proverbs 27:21 “The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.”
Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”
 - ↳ As Herod received the praises and adoration of the people, the judgment of God was given.
Acts 12:23, “Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.”
 - ↳ Isaiah 42:8, “I am the Lord; that is My Name; My glory I give to no other, nor My praise to carved idols.”
- ↳ The death of God’s people, the deliverance of His servants, and the condemnation of evildoers are all under the sovereignty and perfect will of God.
Isaiah 57:1-2, “The righteous man perishes, and no one lays it to heart; devout men are taken away, while no one understands. For the righteous man is taken away from calamity; ²he enters into peace; they rest in their beds who walk in their uprightness.”
- ↳ John 9:2-3, “And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.”
- ↳ Daniel 4:37, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are right and His ways are just; and those who walk in pride He is able to humble.”
- ↳ Proverbs 2:21-22, “For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, ²²but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.”

The Growth of the Eternal Kingdom.

❖ The Kingdom of God, through His Word and His people, is guaranteed to prevail against the opposition of the world and the schemes of the devil.

↳ As kingdoms rise and fall, the kingdom of God will remain forever.

Acts 12:24 “But the Word of God increased and multiplied.”

↳ We can't ignore the contrast between an earthly king and a heavenly King.

Acts 12:21-24 “On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. 22 And the people were shouting, ‘The voice of a god, and not of a man! 23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. 24 But the Word of God increased and multiplied.”

↳ Quiet, ordinary obedience stands in the background of this dramatic political moment.

Acts 12:25 “And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.”

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 “For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

Colossians 4:7 “Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord.”

1 Peter 4:10 “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:”

Galatians 5:13 “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Endnote:

- Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.