



Acts 12:18-25

Herod Judged; The Word Multiplied

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Herod Had Intended to Execute Peter; The Guards Get the Penalty

Acts 12:18, 19 (NASB)

Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers as to what could have become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and had not found him, he examined the guards and ordered that they be led away to execution. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and was spending time there.

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Herod's Setting in History

Acts 12:20, 21 (NASB)

Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain, they were asking for peace, because their country was fed by the king's country. On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them.

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Herod Is Judged by God

Acts 12:22, 23 (NASB)

The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

- Josephus wrote about the death of Herod as well; his account has different details but is not in contradiction to Luke's
- An angel brought deliverance to Peter as the church prayed; an angel brought death to Herod

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God's Word Spreads

Acts 12:24, 25 (NASB)

But the **word of the Lord** continued to **grow and to be multiplied**. And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

- The terms for grow and multiplied are also found in Acts 6:7. Acts 19:20 reiterates growth
- Persecution causes the growth of the church
- In the next verse the scene will shift back to Antioch

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Is the Will Free?

Romans 9:16 (NASB)

So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Galatians 3:10 (NASB)

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

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Does a Command Imply Ability?

Ezekiel 18:31 (NASB)

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and **make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!** For why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Ezekiel 36:26 (NASB)

"Moreover, **I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;** and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh." [See Ezekiel 11:19]

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God Changes the Heart

Deuteronomy 10:16 (NASB)

So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6 (NASB)

Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

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