

Chapter Twelve

Chapter 12

- The chapter begins with a description of King Herod. This was Herod Agrippa, whose grandfather was King Herod the Great who had actually murdered his own sons, including Aristobulus the father of Herod Agrippa when he was age three.
 - What do you make of the dynasty of Herod the Great?
 - What effect do you think that may have had on Herod Agrippa's values?
 - Consider that Herod's bloodline was half Levite and half Edomite with no lineage to the line of King David, a requirement to be a legitimate king in Israel.
- In verses 1-4, we see King Herod acting in a very self-serving political way, appealing to his base and committing murder to advance his standing among his con-

stituents.

- Is there a parallel to politicians in our world today?
- Is there ever anything “new under the sun”?
- In verse 3, when King Herod saw that the murder of Jacob “pleased the Judeans, he proceeded to seize Peter also.”
 - What do you think was Herod’s purpose in holding Peter in jail?
 - According to verse 5, what were the rest of the believers doing during this time?
- According to verse 6, how securely was Peter being held in prison?
 - Why do these details become important as the story proceeds?
- In verse 7, as the angel of the Lord appears to Peter and wakes him up, he tells him to “stand up quickly”, “get dressed and put on your sandals”, “put on your cloak and follow me”.
 - As these events were happening during Passover

week, do you think it triggered Peter's recalling of the Passover instructions found in Exodus 12:11 which states, "This is how you shall eat it: with your belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover."

- Is there a parallel here between the Lord's mighty acts of deliverance of His people in the Exodus and Peter's deliverance here?
- Is God "the same yesterday, today and forever"?
- In verse 11, the text relates that Peter "had come to himself" after the experience.
 - Do you think that if you had experienced such a miraculous escape with the help of an angel it might take you a few minutes to gather yourself and process what had just happened?
 - What was the reaction of the disciples like?
- In verses 18-19, it is recorded that "there was no small stir among the soldiers about what had become of Peter".

- Why do you suppose that the guards who were on duty next to Peter and the ones on duty in front of the door would be concerned about his disappearance?
- Do you think allowing a prisoner to escape with no explanation would have been tolerated in the Roman army?
- What happened to the guards?
- Ever the politician, King Herod Agrippa went to Caesarea where he made a great festival to the Emperor Claudius.
 - While there, envoys from Tyre and Sidon had made friends with the King's personal aide, seeking peace. According to verse 20, what was their purpose in this outreach?
 - In verse 21, we see King Herod Agrippa, playing the role of the politician, dressed in royal clothing, sitting on the throne and making a speech.
 - In verse 22, what were the people claiming about his words?

- In verse 23, what was God's response to his actions?
- Is there a lesson here for politicians today?
- What was the end result of all the turmoil as recorded in verses 24-25?
 - Can you see the sovereignty of God working His purposes behind the scenes in this chapter?
 - How can this help us take comfort when we experience trials and tribulations?