

Part III
**“God’s Wrath Through Signs & Wonders
Comes Against The Enemies Of The Church!”**

Acts 12:18-24

Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the **soldiers (from the prison)** about what had become of **Peter**. But when **Herod (Agrippa I)** had searched for **him (Peter)** and not found **him, he (Herod Agrippa I)** **examined** the **guards** and **commanded** that **they** should be put to death. And **he (Herod Agrippa I)** went down from **Judea** to **Caesarea**, and stayed there. Now **Herod (Agrippa I)** had been very angry with the **People of Tyre** and **Sidon**; but **they** came to **him with one accord**, and having made **Blastus** the **King’s Personal Aide** **their friend**, **they (People of Tyre & Sidon)** asked for peace, because **their country** was supplied with food by the **King’s country**. So, on a **Set Day** (During the **Quinquennial Festival** of the **Founding of Caesarea**, on **March 6th**) **Herod (Agrippa I)**, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on **his throne** and gave an **oration** to them. And the **People (of Tyre & Sidon)** kept shouting: *“The voice of a god and not of a man!”* Then immediately an **Angel of the Lord (Michael)** struck **him (King Herod Agrippa I)** because **he did not give Glory to God**. And **he (King Herod Agrippa I)** was eaten by worms and died. But the **Word of God** **grew and multiplied**. **Acts 12:6-24 (NKJV)**

RECAP

Last Week Peter Was Miraculously Released From Jail By An Angel of the Lord
Because Of The People’s Strong Prayer Of Deliverance In Faith To God!

Q: *“How Do God’s Chosen Leaders In The Church, Like Peter, Act
When God’s People Do Not Act In Faith & Obedience As They Should?”*

A: They Respond In Three Important Ways!

A1: They Continue To Act, Mentor, & Teach God’s Truths In Grace & Love!

*“But motioning to **Them (Disciples)** with his hand to keep silent, **he (Peter)** declared to **Them** how the **Lord** had brought him out of the prison.”* **Acts 12:17a**

A2: They Continue To Provide Sound Vision, Instruction, & Give Godly Guidance

To God’s People, In Order To Inspire Them Into A Deeper Faith & Obedience In Action!

*“And **he (Peter)** said, ‘Go, tell all these things to **James (Brother of Jesus the Head of the Jerusalem Church Council)** and to the **Brethren (People of the Jerusalem Church)**!’”* **Acts 12:17b**

A3: They Continue To Provide Protection & Care

For God’s People Sheltering Them From Evil Or Harm!

*“And **he (Peter)** departed and went to another place.”* ... **Acts 12:17c**

Commentary

Peter Cannot Stay With The Church As Their Pastor & Leader,
While Being Hunted By Religious & Government Authorities
Because He Would Endanger Everyone’s Well Being
And The Future Of God’s Church & Its Witness!

(Slide 13)

The Protective Action The Night Before By Peter To Protect The Church
Now Becomes Clear In The Light Of Day,
When The Investigation & Related Search Into Peter’s Escape
Is Put Into Full Swing By King Herod (Agrippa I / Herod II)!

Then, as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the **soldiers (from the prison)** about what had become of **Peter**. But when **Herod (Agrippa I)** had searched for **him (Peter)** and not found **him**, ... **Acts 12:18-19a**

NOTE

Now That Peter Cannot Be Found & No Good Explanation Can Be Given For His Escape, King Herod Agrippa I Takes Out His Anger & Revenge On His Guards & Orders Their Execution! ... He (Herod Agrippa I) examined the **guards and commanded that **they** should be put to death.**

Acts 12:19b

Herod Agrippa I Now Decides to Check On His Northern Territories As Disturbances & Uprisings Had Been Occurring For Some Time!

And he (King Herod Agrippa I) went down from Judea to Caesarea, and stayed there.

Acts 12:19c

When King Herod Agrippa I Came To The Region of Caesarea
The People Who Had Been In Opposition To His Rule
Decided To Befriend His Chamberlain & Aide, Blastus.
And They Asked For His Exclusive Help To Remedy
Their Precarious Situation With The King!

Now **Herod (Agrippa I)** had been very angry with the **People of Tyre and Sidon**; but **they** came to **him with one accord**, and having made **Blastus** the **King's Personal Aide their friend**, **they (People of Tyre & Sidon)** asked for peace, because **their country** was supplied with food by the **King's country**.

Acts 12:20

On An Appointed Day, At The Height of the Festival,
Blastus Arranged For King Herod Agrippa I To Give The People An Audience.

And The People Took This Occasion To Appeal To His Vanity,
By Flattering Him, & Praising Him as a god!

So, on a **Set Day** (During the **Quinquennial Festival** of the **Founding of Caesarea**, on **March 6th**) **Herod (Agrippa I)**, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on **his throne** and gave an **oration** to them. And the **People (of Tyre & Sidon)** kept shouting: **"The voice of a god and not of a man!"**

Acts 12:21-22

While This Type Of Flattery & Praise Was Quite Common In Those Days,
God Decided To Act On This Blasphemy In His Wrath,
To Deliver His Persecuted Children With Great Signs & Wonders!

NOTE

Divine Acute Affliction - But No Mention Of Immediate Death!

"Then immediately an *Angel of the Lord (Michael)* struck **him (King Herod Agrippa I), because **he did not give Glory to God**."**

Acts 12:23a

God's Final Judgement Brings Death!

"And he (King Herod Agrippa I) was eaten by worms and died." ... Acts 12:23b

NOTE

A Non-Christian Historian, **Flavius Josephus**, Who Was Also A Jew,
Gives A Parallel Account Of These Events!

(Commentary On The Next Page)

“Now when Agrippa had reigned three years over all Judea, he came to the city Caesarea, there he exhibited shows in honor of the emperor. On the Second Day (March 6th) of the Festival (The Quinquennial Festival of the Founding of Caesarea), Herod put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a truly wonderful contexture, and came into the theater early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment was illuminated by the fresh reflection of the sun's rays upon it. It shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those that looked intently upon him.

At that moment, his flatterers cried out that he was a god, ‘theos epiphanes’, the Phoenician sun-god; and they added, ‘Be thou merciful to us; for although we have hitherto revered thee only as a man, yet shall we henceforth own thee as superior to mortal nature.’ Upon this the king did neither rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery.

But as he presently afterward looked up, he saw an owl sitting on a certain rope over his head, and immediately understood that this bird was the messenger of ill tidings, as it had once been the messenger of good tidings to him; and he fell into the deepest sorrow. A severe pain also arose in his belly, and began in a most violent manner.

He therefore looked upon his friends, and said, ‘I, whom you call a god, am commanded presently to depart this life; while Providence thus reproves the lying words you just now said to me; and I, who was by you called immortal, am immediately to be hurried away by death. But I am bound to accept of what Providence allots, as it pleases God; for we have by no means lived ill, but in a splendid and happy manner.’

After he said this, his pain was become violent. Accordingly, he was carried into the palace, and the rumor went abroad that he would certainly die in a little time. But the multitude presently sat in sackcloth, with their wives and children, after the law of their country, and besought God for the king's recovery. All places were also full of mourning and lamentation.

Now the king rested in a high chamber, and as he saw them below lying prostrate on the ground, he could not himself forbear weeping. And when he had been quite worn out by the pain in his belly for five days, he departed this life, being in the fifty-fourth year of his age, and in the seventh year of his reign.”

Flavius Josephus, Jewish Antiquities 19:343-350

Q: “What Was The Effect Of All Of This Divine Intervention In The Form Of Punishment & Death Of King Herod Agrippa I Upon The Local Surrounding Populace?”

A: Because Of This Severe & Sift Divine Judgement, The People Turned Even More To God & Became Followers Of The Faith!

“But the Word of God grew and multiplied!”

Acts 12:24

NOTE

After King Herod Agrippa’s Death Roman Rule Of This Region Would Begin Anew With A Roman Prefect or Governor, Much Like Pontius Pilate, In The Days Of Jesus!

NOTE

Later However, Three of King Herod Agrippa’s Children Will Be Encountered With Some Shared Ruling Authority Alongside Later Roman Governors, Recorded By The Gospel Writer Luke, In His Book of Acts!

(Continued Over)

King Herod Agrippa's Daughter, **Governess Drusilla**,
Married To Future Roman Governor, **Felix** – Acts 24:24
King Herod Agrippa's Son, **King Herod Agrippa II** – Acts 25:13
King Herod Agrippa's Daughter, **Princess Bernice** – Acts 25:13

*“Let Us As God’s Dearly Loved Children
Turn To Him Daily In Great Assurance
Of His Protection, Deliverance,
& Judgement To Preserve Us!
So That We Can Continue To Testify & Witness
To His Name, His Goodness, His Love, & His Salvation,
For All Who Will Put Their Faith & Trust In HIM Alone!”*