

INTRODUCTION

- * As the Gospel spread, the Spiritual War continued.
- * In our study of the book of Acts, we have seen that the Apostles were threatened and persecuted for proclaiming the name of Jesus ... and informed the Sanhedrin that they were to obey God rather than men - to be witnesses of the death, burial and resurrection of the Messiah.
- * Next, Stephen was stoned to death for proclaiming Christ and Saul of Tarsus spread the persecution even unto Damascus.
- * However, in each of these situations God reveals His Sovereignty and His faithfulness to those who believe in Him. The Sovereignty of God does not mean that we will not be persecuted but rather that through the persecution or the deliverance God is working His plan.
- * In our passage today, God reveals that He is the Sovereign King and that He can, and does, over-rule earthly kings at His choosing.
- * From last week ... Barnabas and Saul had been sent by the church of Antioch with a gift to the church of Jerusalem. These events that we cover today occur while they are in Jerusalem (cf. 12:25).

INSTRUCTION**I. THE PROLOGUE: Herod's D_____ (v. 1-3)****A. The D_____ of H_____**

1. HIS P_____
2. HIS P_____

B. The D_____ of J_____

1. HIS IDENTITY (Matthew 17:1, 26:37, Mark 5:37, 9:2, 14:33; Luke 8:51)
2. HIS DEATH (cf. Mark 10: 35-40)
3. HIS POSITION (cf. Matthew 19: 28)

II. THE STORY LINE: Peter's D_____ (v. 4-19)**A. Peter's A_____**

1. HEROD'S INTENT
2. HEROD'S CONCERN

B. Peter's R_____

1. THE P_____ OF THE SAINTS
 - a. Fervent Prayer (v. 5; 1 Peter 4:8)
 - b. Continuous Prayer (v. 12-16)
2. THE P_____ OF PETER (cf. Psalm 127:2; Philippians 4:6-7)
3. THE P_____ OF THE ANGEL
4. THE P_____ OF HEROD

III. THE EPILOGUE: Herod's D_____ (v. 20-24)**A. The Reign of Herod Was Ended**

1. HEROD'S EX_____
2. HEROD'S EX_____

B. The Word of God Was Multiplied**INTROSPECTION**

- * When you consider the events of the world, is it easy to have your eyes taken off of the Sovereign King?
- * Are there Herods, and prisons, which seem to have you at their mercy? Remember, God is Sovereign!
- * Prayer is critical in the life of the church ... and the believer individually! We need to keep a focus on spending time before God's throne.
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * As persecution world wide continues to rise against those who trust in Jesus, are there additional steps spiritually that we should take as a church to be better prepared to stand for Christ?