

## **Kingdoms in Conflict** (Acts 12)

### **Prelude: Three Stories**

- Mark 10:35-40: The future of James and John
- John 21: 14-23: The future of Peter and John
- Acts 5:17-26: A dramatic release

### **I. The Martyrdom of James (12:1-2)**

#### A. The Heritage of Herod Agrippa

1. He was the grandson of Herod the Great (Matthew 2:1ff)
2. He was the nephew of Herod Antipas (Matthew 14; Luke 23)

#### B. Characteristics of Herod Agrippa

1. He was an able politician
2. He was a powerful ruler

#### C. The Execution of James

1. Consistent with Herod's policy of removing dissident minorities
2. James was the first of the apostles to die – in fulfillment of Jesus' declaration

### **II. The Rescue of Peter (12:3-19)**

#### A. Peter's Arrest (12:3-5)

1. Time:
2. Intention:
3. Security:
4. Contrast:
5. The Church's Response:
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Peter's Release (12:6-11)

1. Peter's involvement:
2. The actions of the angel:
3. Peter's realization:

#### C. The Church's Amazement (12:12-17)

1. Rhoda's reaction:
2. The Church's reaction:
3. Peter's instruction:
4. Peter's departure

#### D. Herod's Reaction (12:18-19)

### III. The Judgment of Herod (12:20-24)

A. Luke and Josephus: A consistent narrative

B. Herod's fatal mistake: He accepted \_\_\_\_\_ that belongs only to God (Isaiah 42:8; Acts 10:26).

### IV. Lessons for Disciples

A. God's response to our crises is governed by his over-arching \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Two short-term possibilities: rescue or \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11:34, 37)

2. Our response

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

B. God's response to our crises is \_\_\_\_\_ by our \_\_\_\_\_ (See Ephesians 3:20-21)

1. It should be \_\_\_\_\_

2. It should be \_\_\_\_\_

3. It should be \_\_\_\_\_

C. In the clash of kingdoms, one will ultimately prevail.

1. Those who attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ God will be \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Those who repent and \_\_\_\_\_ will be \_\_\_\_\_.

It is far better to be \_\_\_\_\_ than to be \_\_\_\_\_.