



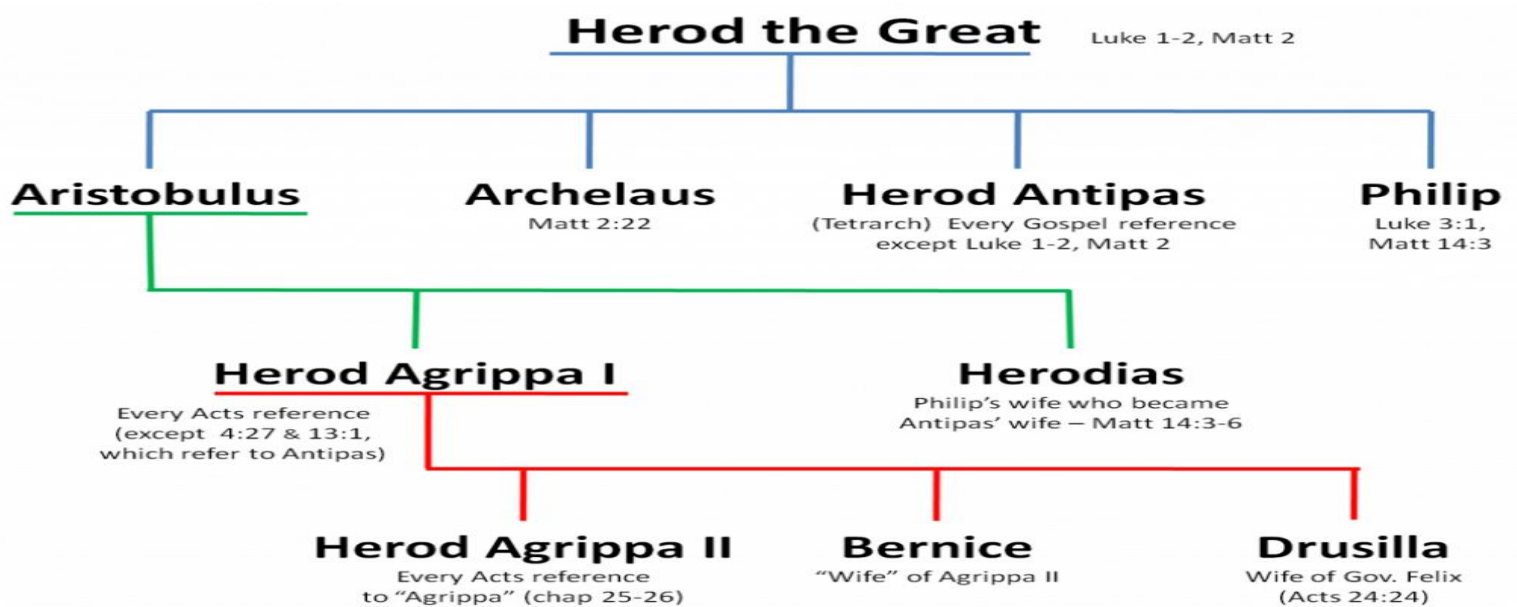
Chapter 12: The King is in Control!

Intro:

Acts 12 is one of the most emotionally honest chapters in Scripture. One apostle is executed. Another apostle is arrested and miraculously delivered. The church prays, and God's answers but His answer takes them by surprise. Through it all, Luke wants us to see one thing: earthly kings have power, but the true King has always been in control.

Vs 1-3 – The acts of the king ...

- The death of James
 - We have a real enemy
- The pleasing of the Jews and motivation of Herod



- The arrest of Peter

Vs 4-5 – The intentions of the king and the intervention of the King

- Seized, imprisoned, and delivered over
- Intending to bring him out to the people
- But the church prayed – Luke offers us a behind the scenes look

Before Luke tells us, what God is doing, he wants us to feel the weight of what Herod is doing. The earthly king appears to be winning.

Much in the same way as other scenes have been set up in the Bible.

The importance of Biblical Theology and Typology

What does this story remind you of?

- Ex 1: 8-22
 - A new ruler arose that was not attached to the people of God
 - He oppresses the people of God
 - He commands for all male children born to be thrown into the Nile

But God ...

- Ex 12 – The Passover
 - 12:11 – In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

Luke isn't merely recording a prison escape. He is intentionally telling this story in Exodus language. Just as God delivered His people from the hands of Pharaoh, He now delivers Peter from the hands of Herod.

Vs 6-11 – The King moves in providence

- Peter is sleeping in the cell bound in chains and well guarded
- An angel stood next to him and light shone in the cell
- Then they come to the iron gate, and it opens of its own accord.
 - [The Prison Gates Opened of Their Own Accord – Really? | Desiring God](#)
- Peter realizes it is real and gives God the acknowledgement

Vs 12-17 – What the King had done ...

- Peter heads to a known church gathering place, John Mark's mother
- Peter knocks ... kept knocking
- Peter testifies, gives direction, and leaves

Vs 18-19 – the king finds out what the King has done

- Herod searches for Peter and does not find him
- Herod puts the sentries to death
- Herod leaves Jerusalem and goes to Caesarea

Luke now shifts the spotlight from the apostle who was helpless to the king who appeared all-powerful.

Vs 20-23 – The King strikes the king

- Herod and Tyre and Sidon have turmoil
- They gather and persuade Blastus to barter peace
- Herod holds a ceremony
- The people cry out in flattering praise
- He is struck down, the one they called "superior to mortal nature," is just as mortal as the rest of us

Peter is rescued without lifting a finger. Herod falls while sitting on a throne.

Vs 24 – The King continues His work of Word spreading

The Word of God

- Increased
- Multiplied

Vs 25 – Meanwhile ...

Barnabas, Saul, and John Mark

Implications:

- Reading with the whole story in our minds
- God's kingdom
- Real opposition
- Providence
- Prayer
- Salvation

Acts 12 begins with a king killing, imprisoning, and intimidating. It ends with that king dead and the Word of God increasing and multiplying. Luke's message is clear: kings come and go, prisons rise and fall, persecutors appear and disappear, but the true King continues His work through His Word and His church.