

The Acts of God's Interactions among us!

Acts 12: 1-

I. The Challenge of Christian Martyrdom!

We see in this Chapter God allow someone to be killed...

Remember Mark 10: 35-40 when Jesus said that James knew more than he realized...

Remember John the Baptist... Matthew 11: 6 *"And Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."*

II. The Joy of Miraculous Interventions!

Ch. 12 Vs 5 *"but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."*

Vs 6 *"And behold the angel of the Lord..."*

- Peter was sleeping between 4 soldiers!
- Angel interventions
 - * Hebrews 1: 14 tells us that angels, ministering spirits, are sent forth to minister to those who are heirs of salvation, on occasion!
 - * Psalms 103: 20 tells us that these angels are exceedingly strong
 - * On one occasion, 2nd Kings 19: 35, we are told that one angel slew 185,000 armed Assyrian soldiers in one night.
 - * Daniel 6 tells us that God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths that they not hurt me.
 - * Even the Devil said to Jesus that if He cast Himself down that the angels would not let Him get hurt. In Matthew 4: 6 and after His temptations the angels did come and minister to Him...
 - * Jesus said to Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane that He could call twelve legions of angels to rescue Him (Matthew 26)

The psalmist said in Psalms 34: 7 *"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them!"*

Hence, sometimes God sends His angels to protect His people, but other times He allows them to go through the fire of distress and only He makes the decision. But we know enough to know that when He wishes to He does and when He chooses not to it is not because He cannot or that He doesn't care.

III. The Judgement of the Wicked!

Then we see the power of God when He has had enough!

Here this man had killed John the Baptist, this man Jesus would not speak too, He would not answer any question posed to Him from this man, He would not even look at Herod... but He still lived. But now, He is destroyed... why? Why now?

Pride is a powerful destructive force!

In Proverbs 6: 16,17 we read that there are 7 things that are an abomination unto the Lord, among them let us mention three..."a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood."

Proverbs 16: 5 and 18 we read that "Every one that is Proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand joins in hand, he shall not be unpunished." And in verse 18 of the same chapter we read, "Pride goeth before Destruction, and a haughty spirit before all fall."

-----The Power of God when he chooses to step out!

When God choses to step out it is amazing... He sits back and sits back but when He steps up, it is something...

Here we see what happened to Herod! Even His father Herod the great died a horrifying death.

We must remember the words of the Psalmist in Psalms 37: 1.....

In Hebrews 10: 30, 31 we read, *"We know Him that hath said, vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God."*

Can you visualize for a moment when Herod fell into the hands of the living God, and saw this Jesus that he had seen, beaten before him and now He was the judge.

Jesus said, fear not those who could destroy the body, but we should fear the one who can destroy both the body and the soul in Hell(Gehenna) fire. Matthew 10: 28

Matthew 23: 13-33

Luke 16: 23...