

Acts 12:1-24

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 4-5-17

III. Foundations for World Mission (6:8-12:24)

- A. Stephen the martyr (6:8-7:60)
- B. Philip the evangelist (8:1-40)
- C. The conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
- D. The conversion of Cornelius (9:32-11:18)
- E. Expansion and opposition (11:19-12:24)**

Opposition: the Church in Jerusalem

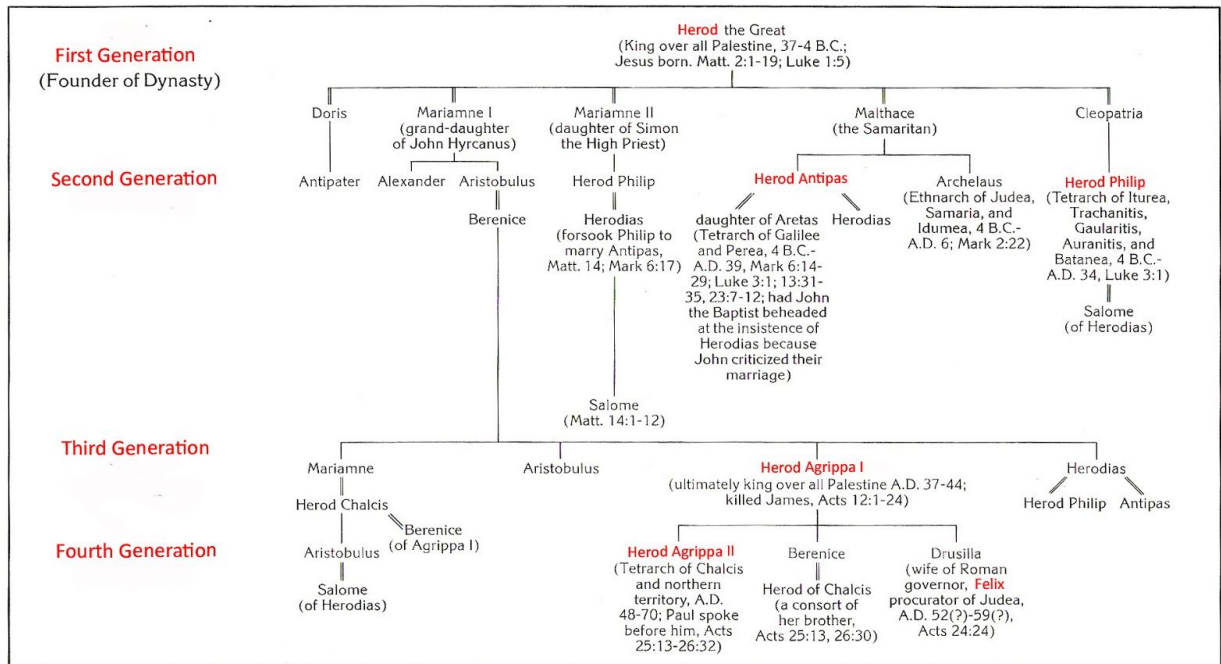
Luke's narrative thus far: progress > setback

- The church in battle (Ephesians 6:12)

Herod's plot - vv. 1-4

- Herod Agrippa I

A Genealogical Chart of the Herodian Dynasty



Reigning kings of New Testament times are in red. This is only a partial genealogy.

- Maintain Roman peace, curry favor with the Jews (vv. 1-3)
- V. 4 - “ _____ ”

Herod's Defeat - vv. 5-19a

Peter's imprisonments (4:3; 5:18 - at the hands of the Sanhedrin)

V. 5 - the church in prayer

- "fervently" = *ektenos*, same word used of Jesus in Gethsemane (Luke 22:44) -
 - Perseverance (without letting up) + intensity (fervor, urgency) = a fervent, incessant, agonizing prayer
 - Cf. Phil. 1:19 & Philemon 22 - Paul's belief that through the prayers of the church he would be delivered.
- 2 powers arrayed against the other:
 - The world - with swords, guards, chains, and prison walls
 - The church - with prayer

V. 6 - Stressing the _____ with which Peter was being guarded

Peter seems at _____ (cf. 16:25)

- Chrysostom: "It is beautiful that Paul sings hymns, whilst here Peter sleeps."
- Cf. Matthew 6:31-34; Phil. 4:4-7
- Biblical faith ≠ intellectual assent, but _____ and _____

Vv. 11-12 - the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark (the evangelist)

- Principal meeting place? Same "upper room" as Mark 14:15 and Acts 1:12-14?

V. 17 = key verse

- This is all about the _____ of God
- Peter - a _____ agent

Vv. 18-19 - Justinian's Code

Herod's Death - vv. 19b-24

Vv. 20-23 - historical details surrounding the death of Herod

- Quarrel with the people of Tyre and Sidon, cities on the Phoenician coast
- Seeking resolution via Blastus
- Herod in regal attire
 - Josephus: "made wholly of silver and of a contexture truly wonderful" which shone so brightly in the morning sun that the people hailed him as a god, saying "We have feared you as a man, yet henceforth we agree that you are more than mortal in your being."
 - Luke in v. 22 - "The people kept crying out, 'The voice of a god and not of a man!'"
 - Josephus: "Upon this the king did neither rebuke them nor reject their impious flattery."
- God's judgment fell on Herod because he glorified himself rather than God.
 - Luke: "eaten by worms and died"
 - Josephus: "a severe pain arose in his belly" and died 5 days later

Juxtaposition of the death of a tyrant to v. 24

- The complete _____ of the church's situation
- Such is the power of God to overthrow hostile human plans