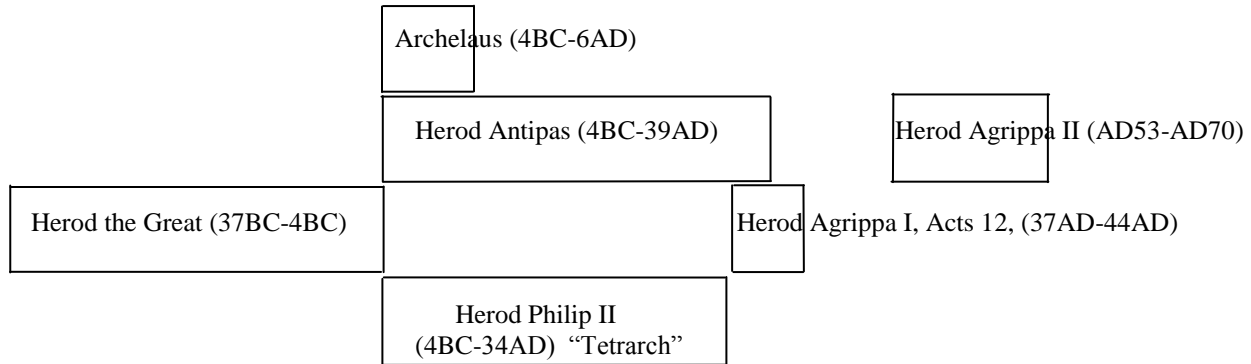


## *the remotest part of the earth*

#14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25

So here we are, back in Jerusalem where the Jewish persecution of Christians continues. Herod also got on the “band wagon” and is doing his bit by also mistreating those born again.

### the Herods



1 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. 2 And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. 3 When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. Now it was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

[1.] v:1-3, it pleased the Jews, How do we know that these Jews were not born again Christians?

[2.] v:3, days of Unleavened Bread. Turn to Exodus 12:15. Under the old covenant, what is the law concerning leaven?

[3.] From I Corinthians 5:7-8, what is the teaching about leaven for new covenant people?

[4.] Acts 12:3, How do we know that these were unsaved Jews?

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#14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25

4 When he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out before the people.

[5.] v:4, intending after the Passover, **Why would it have been OK for the Jews, to murder an innocent person, after the Passover?**

5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

### something to think about

Matt 5:10-11, "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Matt 5:44, But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

These verses perfectly fit the case of Peter's false imprisonment. But what about the case of a born again Christian who "is guilty" and in prison (Galatians 6:1-4)?

[6.] Why or why doesn't the congregation have a responsibility toward that Christian?

[7.] If a congregation prays, what should they pray for regarding that Christian?

6 On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.

[8.] v:6, soldiers, bound with two chains, **Talk about "overkill"! What recent event had Herod probably heard about that made him so paranoid?**

## *the remotest part of the earth*

### #14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25

7 And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands. 8 And the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." 9 And he went out and continued to follow, and he did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. 10 When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

12 And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying. 13 When he knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate. 15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she kept insisting that it was so. They kept saying, "It is his angel."

16 But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, they saw him and were amazed.

[9.] v:7-9, an angel of the Lord, **List the visible and audible disturbances that would wake anyone up but didn't.**

[10.] v:10, first and second guard, **So if you were one of the guards, and you saw the open gate, what would you do?**

[11.] v:11, the Jewish people were expecting. **What were these unsaved Jews expecting?**

[12.] v:12-15, You are out of your mind! **I get such a kick out of these verses. OK, a group of you men are praying for the salvation of the president. The word comes to the group that he accepts Christ. What is your reaction?**

[13.] question [12.] **Give some reasons why you reacted the way you did?**

[14.] v:16, Thankfully Peter didn't leave. **But if he had, what would have been their conclusion?**

## *the remotest part of the earth*

### #14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25

17 But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had led him out of the prison. And he said, "Report these things to James and the brethren." Then he left and went to another place.

18 Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers as to what could have become of Peter. 19 When Herod had searched for him and had not found him, he examined the guards and ordered that they be led away to execution. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea (**map, pg 5**) and was spending time there.

20 Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain (**male sleeping partner**), they were asking for peace, because their country was fed by the king's country.

21 On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. 22 The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" 23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

24 But the word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

[15.] v:17, Report these things to James and the brethren. **Why didn't Peter take the time to do pass the word?**

[16.] v:18-19, no small disturbance, **Just suppose Peter was found. Why or why isn't it possible that Herod would have believed the angel's visit but still killed the guards anyway?**

[17.] v:20, they were asking for peace, **By getting the ear of Blastus, what did the folks of Tyre and Sidon hope to gain?**

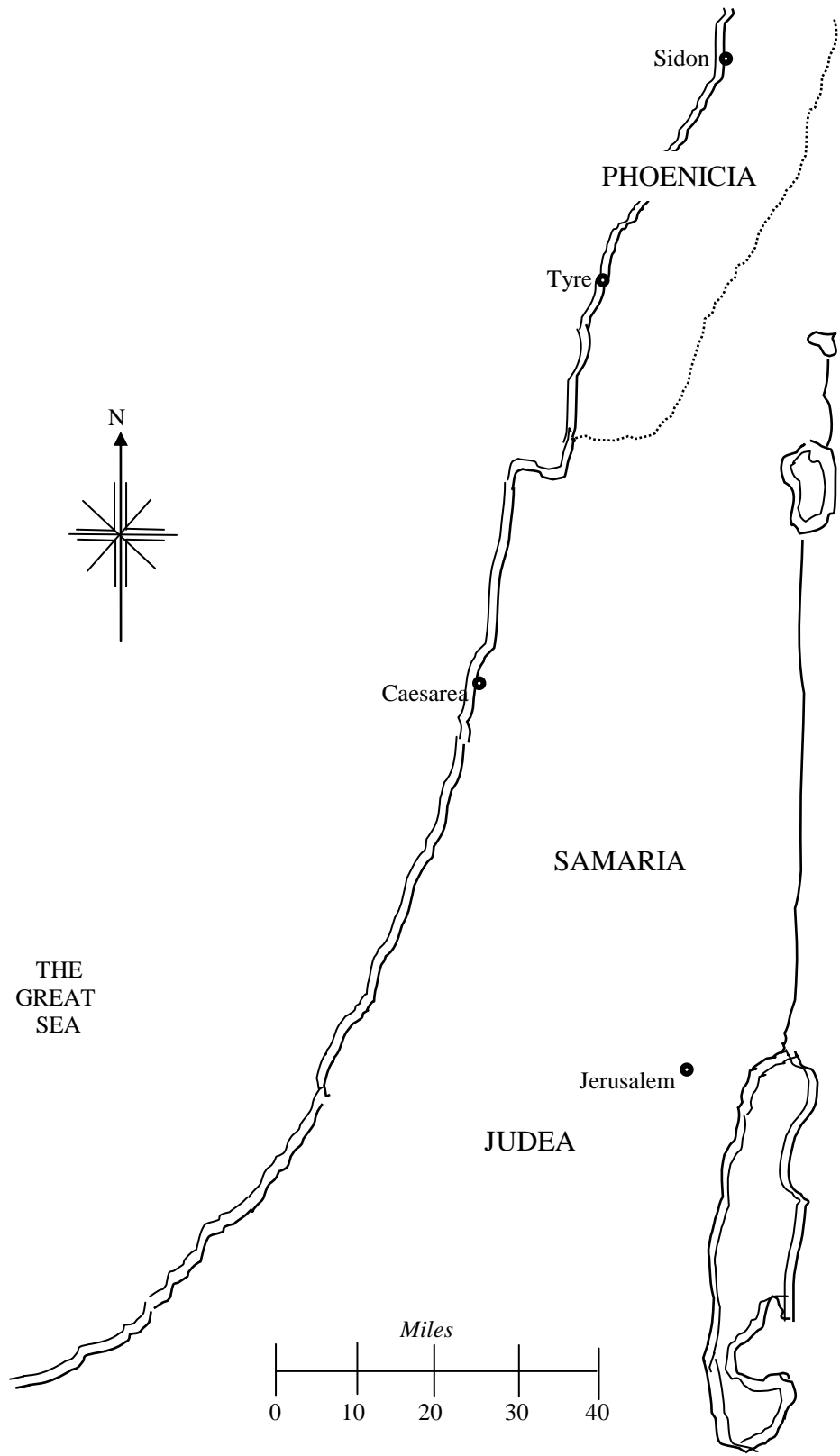
[18.] v:21-23, delivering an address to them. **Since Herod's obese ego could not give God any glory, what did it cost him during his little speech?**

[19.] v:24, But the word of the Lord, **Thought this was probably the biggest Middle East news event of the decade, what was not affected in any way shape or form?**

On pg 6 we'll close this lesson with v:25 and discuss some possible considerations from Paul's epistle to the Galatians.

*the remotest part of the earth*

#14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25



## *the remotest part of the earth*

#14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25

### for your consideration

**Recall** Acts 11:29-30, And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea. 30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

**And the last verse of chapter we just completed,** Acts 12:25, And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.

**Also Paul chronicled his mini history in the first part of Galatians.** From Gal 1:18-19, Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Consider that Paul was in Jerusalem during the events of Acts chapter 12 and delivered the contribution to James (not the martyred one). He also saw Peter before and/or after his imprisonment. **On Peter's escape** (Acts 12:17, Then he left and went to another place.) **he hid out with Paul.**

Paul did become acquainted with Peter and he saw now other apostle except James.

[20.] Therefore, according to Galatians 1:18, about how much time did the events of Acts chapter 12 cover?

[21.] And by the way, what year did the events of Acts 12 end. (hint: refer to the Herod time lines)

This ends part one of “the remotest part of the earth”.

*the remotest part of the earth*

#14, a feast for the worms – Acts 12: 1-25

**NOTES**