

Some are Slain, Some are Saved Acts 12

QUESTION: “Why is God so hit-and-miss in the way He intervenes?”



JAMES SLAIN



PETER SAVED



HEROD SLAIN

Death of James . . . by Agrippa (12:1-4)

- Like Herod the Great (*gramps*) & Herod Antipas (*uncle Anti*), Herod Agrippa I opposes God's people. Killing James helps his approval rating w/hardliners.
- This is 3rd arrest of Peter (2nd for James), and things progressively get worse.

Deliverance of Peter . . . by an Angel (12:5-19)

- In spite of an angelic prison break in 5:19, Peter and others seem to expect the worse here, as folks are so slow to believe in Peter's stunning rescue.
- Angels intervening in Acts: 5:19, 8:23, 10:3, 12:24, 27:23
- Can you think of other cases where some are slain yet others are saved? What should our response be to this fact of life?

Death of Herod . . . by an Angel (12:20-25)

- Peter's escape is very humiliating for Herod, and the guards are led off to be executed (cf. 16:27, 27:42); Herod then takes off for Caesarea.
- Herod is killed for not giving glory to God (cf. 11:18), yet his recent execution of James and attacks upon the fledgling church no doubt led to his death too. Question: Why not slay more evil rulers like this? Many Herods are out there!

- Compare the fates of two early great persecutors in Acts (Saul and Herod).
- Herod's death makes for another good “progress report,” 12:24, cf. 6:7, 9:31.