

## **Contrast of Kings**

- 1. King Jesus Deliveres While Herod Kills.**
- 2. Herod's Words Bring Death, God's Word Brings Life.**
- 3. King Jesus' Reign Frees Us to Serve Him as He Calls Us.**

This chapter (and the whole first half of Acts) closes with the death of Herod as a clear indication of the sovereign reign of King Jesus through His judgment. Their rule and kingdoms are contrasted to show us not only Christ's superiority, but to encourage us to trust our Lord in all that He has promised. His kingdom is expanding throughout all the earth until He comes again just like He said. He is in charge at every step along the way so that we can joyfully yield to His leading and do our King's bidding faithfully.

## Isaiah 48: 9 – 15

“For my name’s sake I defer my anger;  
for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you,  
that I may not cut you off.

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;  
I have tried you in the furnace of affliction.  
For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it,  
for how should my name be profaned?

**My glory I will not give to another.**

“Listen to me, O Jacob & Israel, whom I called!  
I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.  
My hand laid the foundation of the earth,  
and my right hand spread out the heavens;  
when I call to them, they stand forth together.

## Zechariah 14: 1 – 21

Behold, a day is coming for the Lord,  
And **the Lord will be king over all the earth**. On that day the Lord will  
be one and his name one ...

And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the peoples  
that wage war against Jerusalem: **their flesh will rot while they are still  
standing on their feet**, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues  
will rot in their mouths.

## Acts—Series Overview

### ***The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power***

*Acts* records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

All the kingdoms of this earth will eventually come to nothing. Food for worms. But there is one Kingdom that will remain forever. There is one King who reigns with justice and mercy and whose rule brings life rather than death. Come and bow before that King! Let us give Him all of our lives together, for He alone is the Lord worthy of all praise.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

## Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Luke 10:17-20; Matthew 10:16-22**. DISCUSS, How does King Jesus' Word bring life? How does Herod's bring death? How does Herod's kingdom represent all earthly kingdoms? What are the ways you typically rely too much on earthly kingdoms? PRAY "Lord King, we praise You as our King. We thank You for already winning the war against evil and death. Help us now to stand strong in Your truth and love."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adults' Fellowship** at **6:00** tonight in the FCCW library.

## Monday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Isaiah 48:9-15**. DISCUSS, Why is God so jealous for His glory? How is this not a weakness for God whereas it is for any earthly king? How are we most apt to steal His glory? PRAY, "Jesus, You are the King of Kings. Teach us to give You alone all glory, honor, and praise!"

## Tuesday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Zechariah 14:1-21**. DISCUSS, What will happen in the day of the Lord to all earthly kingdoms? Why? How does Christ's rule enable us to walk by faith now? PRAY, "Jesus, thank You for protecting us and ruling over Your Kingdom expansion with grace and truth. Teach us to be faithful ambassadors of Your Kingdom."

## Wednesday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Isaiah 14:9-11; Second Peter 1:3-21**. DISCUSS, How do these passage contrast Christ's Kingdom with those of this world? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, You are our King. We praise and honor You and ask that You would help us follow You faithfully."

### Thursday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Luke 10:17-20; Hebrews 12:18-29**. DISCUSS, King Jesus will one day definitively put down all other rulers and be shown to be the only King. How are you waiting on that day? What is your confidence on this earth? PRAY, “Lord, Jesus, come quickly, Lord. Help us as we wait on You.”

### Friday

READ **Acts 12:18-25; Luke 10:17-20; Matthew 10:16-22**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if God has been generous to you in faith in Christ! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 13:1-15:35**. Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## Luke 10:17 – 20

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

## Isaiah 14: 9 – 11

Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come;

it rouses the shades to greet you,

all who were leaders of the earth;

it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations.

All of them will answer and say to you:

‘You too have become as weak as we!

You have become like us!’

Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps;

maggots are laid as a bed beneath you,

and worms are your covers.