



Acts Chapter 12

Acts chapter 11 was an interesting chapter. We learned about Peters dream of the sheet that contained all kinds of animals, and we learned what the dream was all about. We also learned that contrary to what many Christian denominational charters will try to tell us.. that Peters dream of the sheet with all kinds of animals had nothing to do with making all animals food in the eyes of God our Father, and so it was that we put that false teaching to rest.

We also learned about Antioch and Barnabas and Paul teaching and preaching not just to the Jews but finally to the gentiles also. We also learned that the gentiles had been being grafted into the House of Israel clear back in the days of the exodus. We also learned that every Christian who believes in the Messiah Yahshua (Jesus the Christ) is grafted into the House of Israel just as Paul tells us very clearly in Romans chapter 11, and again in Galatians chapter 3.

So we know that the followers of our Messiah began to grow in Antioch thanks to the help of both Barnabas and Paul who spent a whole year there teaching and preaching the Gospel message.

So with that information under our belts lets move into Acts chapter 12:

Acts Chapter 12:

Act 12:1 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church.

Act 12:2 He killed James the brother of John with the sword,

Act 12:3 and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

Act 12:4 And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people.

Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church.

Act 12:6 Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison.

Act 12:7 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He

struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands.

Act 12:8 And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me."

Act 12:9 And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.

Act 12:10 When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him.

Act 12:11 When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Act 12:12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Act 12:13 And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer.

Act 12:14 Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate.

Act 12:15 They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!"

Act 12:16 But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed.

Act 12:17 But motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he described to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Tell these things to James and to the brothers." Then he departed and went to another place.

Act 12:18 Now when day came, there was no little disturbance among the soldiers over what had become of Peter.

Act 12:19 And after Herod searched for him and did not find him, he examined the sentries and ordered that they should be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and spent time there.

Act 12:20 Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food.

Act 12:21 On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them.

Act 12:22 And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!"

Act 12:23 Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

Act 12:24 But the word of God increased and multiplied.

Act 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

KING HEROD AGRIPPA:

So lets begin with King Herod Agrippa. King Herod Agrippa was the grandson of King Herod The Great who ruled in the years leading up to the time of Yahshua. After King Herod The Great died in 1 B.C. there was no king over Judah for about 40 years.

It wasn't until King Herod Agrippa was coronated by Emperor Claudius in 41 A.D. That Judah once again had a king. Over the 40 year span between 1 B.C. And 41 A.D. there was no king.. Judah was simply ruled by Roman Procurators

It was said that King Herod Agrippa was a Jew, although history tells us something quite different about this particular king. Genealogically speaking according to his blood relations King Herod Agrippa was just as much a gentile as his grandfather Herod the Great was.

King Herod Agrippa's grandfather King Herod the Great was of Idumean, and Nabatean roots. Idumea was formerly known as "Edom", and the Edomites were by in large the offspring of Esau. Herod the Great's mother was also a Nabatean, who came from Ishmael.

So even though King Herod Agrippa himself seemed to follow after the Jewish faith, and kept the Jewish feast days.. he actually had no Hebrew blood in him at all. However.. the fictional story about his being a Jew helped the Jewish people to accept him as their Jewish King.

The historian Josephus describes him as being a devout Jew who was known for his generosity to his Jewish subjects.

So when we hear about King Herod Agrippa turning violent against those who were following "The Way".. who believed in Yahshua as their Messiah.. it seems to be fairly clear that this King who proclaimed to be Jewish was out to destroy the Gospel Message that the Apostles were trying to teach and preach.

Why else would he behead James the brother of John? And we can clearly see that his Jewish subjects were absolutely fine with him beheading James in verse 3. It's important to remember that it was his grandfather King Herod the Great that went about killing all the firstborn children because he had heard that a Jewish Messiah was coming.

So as we move forward through the story we need to understand something very important.

Passover, and Unleavened bread were always thought of as one event, not two separate events as many assume. And this is important to understand as we move forward through out chapter 12. The Passover was often times called "Preparation Day".

It was the day when the Israelites were to remove all leaven (or Yeast) from their houses, and they were to eat only flat bread with out yeast for the rest of the week. God our Father commanded that the first day of Unleavened bread no work was to be done, and on the 7th day of Unleavened bread no work was to be done, and so it was that Passover and Unleavened Bread were always referred to as one event, and the terms Passover or Unleavened Bread were interchangeable.

Consider these scriptures:

Luk 22:1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.

Eze 45:21 "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall celebrate the Feast of the Passover, and for seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten.

So this is why King Herod Agrippa arrested Peter before the 8 day Passover event, and had no intention on dealing with his execution until after the Passover which included Unleavened Bread had passed. He knew that these were commanded holy days, and that it would not be wise to murder Peter during the feast days of God.

Now.. with all of that being said.. I'd like to point out another mistake found in the King James Version of the Bible. And I am well aware of the King James Cultist movement out there that loves to proclaim that the King James version of the Bible is inherent, and flawlessly perfect and that it's anointed by God as being the perfect Bible.

I can assure you my friends... that it is not. Once again the King James version of the Bible is a very good translation, but it is in no way shape or form inherently flawless, or perfect, and we've spoken about this many many times.

Lets take a look at verse 4 of Acts chapter 12 in the King James version of the Bible.

*Act 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.*

This is NOT what the original manuscript says. The word that they use here as "Easter" is another mistake found in the King James Bible. The original word found in the manuscripts is the Greek word "Pasha". Lets go to the King James Concordance and lets examine what they have done:

πάσχα

pascha

Total KJV Occurrences: 29

passover, 28

Mat 26:2, Mat 26:17-19 (3), Mar 14:1, Mar 14:12 (2), Mar 14:14, Mar 14:16, Luk 2:41, Luk 22:1, Luk 22:7-8 (2), Luk 22:11, Luk 22:13, Luk 22:15, Joh 2:13, Joh 2:23, Joh 6:4, Joh 11:55 (2), Joh 13:1 (2), Joh 18:28, Joh 18:39, Joh 19:14, 1Co 5:7, Heb 11:28

easter, 1

Act 12:4

As we can clearly see.. the word “Pascha” is used 29 times in the New Testament, and 28 of those 29 times they correctly translated the word “Pascha” to the word “Passover”. Lets be clear my friends “Pascha” means “Passover”. “Pasha” can not mean anything else, and it can never mean “Easter”.

Here's how Thayer correctly defines the word “Pascha”:

pascha

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the paschal sacrifice (which was accustomed to be offered for the people's deliverance of old from Egypt)
- 2) the paschal lamb, i.e. the lamb the Israelites were accustomed to slay and eat on the fourteenth day of the month of Nisan (the first month of their year) in memory of the day on which their fathers, preparing to depart from Egypt, were bidden by God to slay and eat a lamb, and to sprinkle their door posts with its blood, that the destroying angel, seeing the blood, might pass over their dwellings; Christ crucified is likened to the slain paschal lamb
- 3) the paschal supper
- 4) the paschal feast, the feast of the Passover, extending from the 14th to the 20th day of the month Nisan

Part of Speech: noun neuter

So why would the King James translators correctly translate “Pasha” as Passover 28 times... but in Acts chapter 12 verse 4.. translate it as “Easter”?

You will find Bible commentator, after Bible commentator, after Bible commentator all wrongly trying to justify the word “Easter” in Acts chapter 12 verse 4 because it gives credibility to the Roman Catholic holiday of “Easter”. They will try to tell you that it was “Easter” and that's why Herod did not want to kill Peter, but as we've already seen.. this makes no sense what so ever according to what the scripture says, and what we already know about King Herod Agrippa.

King Herod was thought of as a Jew, and he followed after all of the biblical feast days, and appointments. The pagan holiday of “Easter” would have in no way deterred him from killing Peter because we know that King Herod Agrippa lived and believed as a Jew.

The reason that these commentators wrongly give for the use of the word “Easter” in the King James version of the Bible is because they will argue that in verse 3 it says that “then were the days of Unleavened Bread” so they say that the “Passover” would have already been over, so therefore it had to be the Pagan Easter!

Once again these men should have spent less time commentating and more time reading their Bibles. As we've already seen.. Passover and Unleavened Bread were always seen as the same event. Passover is the preparation day for Unleavened Bread. What did Luke say?

Luk 22:1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.

And what are we were we told in Ezekiel?

Eze 45:21 "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall celebrate the Feast of the Passover, and for seven days unleavened bread shall be eaten.

Easter clearly had nothing to do with Herod's decision to not kill Peter. Passover which was always known as Unleavened Bread.. was still going on and this is why Herod who thought of himself as a Jew would not kill Peter during the Passover.. also known as Unleavened Bread.

Passover and Unleavened Bread were always used interchangeably, so once again the word “Pasha” in verse 4 of chapter 12 should have correctly been translated as “Passover” just like the last 28 times that they translated it correctly.. and not “Easter”.

In fact.. the modern day version of the King James Bible has already made that correction:

Act 12:4 And capturing him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four sets of four soldiers to keep him; intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

Notice that the modern King James version no longer uses the incorrect word “Easter”, and in fact most of your Bible translations will not use the incorrect word “Easter” in Acts chapter 12

verse 4 either.

So they know what they did, and they corrected it. So much for a perfectly inherent, and flawless translation. As we've said many times my friends.. there is no perfectly translated version of Gods Word.

English translations are a translation of a translation. Any time you translate a book from one language to another you're going to have some lost meaning, and this is why it's important for us to cross referance these things, test these words, pray for the discernment that comes from our Fathers Ruach Hakodesh, and know the truth.

Easter is a Pagan holiday, not sanctioned by God our Father anywhere in the Word of God, and in fact.. it is forbidden for anyone who claims to be a Christian to keep such a holiday.

Deu 12:28 Be careful to obey all these words that I command you, that it may go well with you and with your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

Deu 12:29 "When the LORD your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land,

Deu 12:30 take care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.'

Deu 12:31 You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the LORD hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods.

Deu 12:32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

Our Father says very clearly and distinctly.. that he does not want to be worshiped like a Pagan God in verse 31, and he also tells us in verse 32 to be CARFUL to do what HE commands us and not to add to or take away from his Word.

All four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, all agree that our Messiah died on Preparation Day also known as Passover day which was the “Preparation” for the feast of Unleavened Bread.

Matthew:

Mat 27:62 The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate

Mat 27:63 and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After

three days I will rise.'

Mark:

Mar 15:42 And when evening had come, since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath,

Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Luke:

Luk 23:54 It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.

John:

Joh 19:31 Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away.

And so with your own eyes you have seen that all four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, all testify before your eyes that our Messiah died on Passover day which was always known as “Preparation Day” in preparation for the Feast of Unleavened Bread which is a Sabbath day of rest, and yet.. our modern day version of Christianity which is perpetrated by any one of over 5000 different denominational charters of men will proclaim that he died on... “Good Friday”.

Let me ask you my friends... how do you get three days and three nights from Friday afternoon to Sunday morning? You can not! It is mathematically impossible!

Mat 12:39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Mat 12:40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

So according to these “Good Friday” believers... our Messiah then is a liar! They will believe what man says over what our Messiah says, and not only will they turn a deaf ear to what our Messiah says.. they will try to sell their man made, man created, man fabricated nonsense to you and your children.

Well I don't know about you my friends... but here's what my Bible says:

Rom 3:4 By no means! Let God be true though every one were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."

How dare they! How dare they lie to us and to our children. If you're going to lie about something that's bad enough.. but why you lie about God's holy sanctified Word... how dare they!

These men with more degrees than a thermometer, in their three piece suits and their patent leather shoes. The book of Titus has a few choice words for such men.

Tit 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

Tit 1:16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,

Tit 2:12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

Tit 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Tit 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Tit 2:15 Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

Know your Bible and trust in what it says for these are evil days that we are now living in, and they're going to get progressively worse as times marches on. Put on the full armor of God and walk upright so that we can stand in these evil days and contend for the faith.

Declare these things: exhort and rebuke with all authority and let no one disregard you.. and do not fear what men can do to the body, but fear him.. who can through both body and soul into the pit.

Stand and be strong in his Word and choose this very day whom you will serve... will it be the creature.. or the creator? Build your houses on the rock and not in the sand.. lift up your voices and be the light on a hill that you were meant to be. You are the salt of the earth, and the light that shines the way.

Be strong in the faith and let no one extinguish the light that you've been given.

2Pe 3:1 This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

2Pe 3:2 that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment

of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

2Pe 3:3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

2Pe 3:4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."

2Pe 3:5 For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God,

2Pe 3:6 and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

2Pe 3:7 But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

2Pe 3:8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Yes they will scoff, and yes they will mock.. but in the end the scoffing and the mocking will turn to confession as every knee bends, and every head bows to confess with their tongues that our Father is God. And on that great and terrible day they will throw their gold and silver in the streets because it will be seen as an unclean thing and it will not be able to save them.

Eze 7:19 They cast their silver into the streets, and their gold is like an unclean thing. Their silver and gold are not able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD. They cannot satisfy their hunger or fill their stomachs with it. For it was the stumbling block of their iniquity.

And that very day my friends is coming much sooner than even we can imagine. And no matter where you believe that we are in that timeline.. know this... We are closer now.. then when we first believed.