



# Herod Strikes Again

Acts 12:1-4, 20-24

## 1. Which Herod is this?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ the Herod who murdered the babies after Jesus birth. (Herod **the Great**)
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ the Herod who beheaded John the Baptist and declined to pass judgement on Jesus when offered up by Pilot. (Herod **Antipas**)
- c. This Herod (Herod Agrippa 1) is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Herod the Great, and \_\_\_\_\_ of Herod Antipas.
- d. “Herod” was the **family name**, and had become a common title of a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Think of how “The President” or “The Sheriff” can refer to several different people over the course of time – and you are supposed to know this instinctively.*

## 2. Why did Herod arrest Christians and execute James.

- a. Short answer: He intended to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- b. Long answer:
  - i. His \_\_\_\_\_ depended on the Jews not causing trouble.
  - ii. Making friends with the Jewish leadership was a \_\_\_\_\_ savvy thing to do.
  - iii. The Christians were an \_\_\_\_\_, low threat target.
  - iv. His only concern was maintaining \_\_\_\_\_ position.

## 3. Why was James was put to death by the sword?

- a. James was most likely the first \_\_\_\_\_ swept up in the arrests.
- b. Execution by sword symbolized that James was a \_\_\_\_\_ teacher.

**4. Why did Herod have Peter arrested?**

- a. It was popular with the Jewish \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. It was popular with the greater Jewish \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. It was popular with the \_\_\_\_\_ whom Herod answered to.
- d. If \_\_\_ top leader like James was such a good thing, then \_\_\_\_\_ top leader would obviously be even better.
- e. Plus, if you cut off the head, the \_\_\_\_\_ will most likely die off.

**5. Herod was more than just a little concerned about Peter escaping.**

- a. Assigning \_\_\_\_\_ soldiers to guard a fisherman turned preacher was extreme.
- b. Herod **remembered the events of Acts 5:19**, when all of the apostles had been arrested, put in jail, and then walked right out in the night.

**6. To summarize:**

- a. Herod persecuted Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ himself.
- b. Herod \_\_\_\_\_ an acceptable excuse to murder James.
- c. Herod was driven to persecute Christians in order to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. Herod targeted \_\_\_\_\_.

**7. When did Herod finally take things too far?**

- a. When pride and popularity convinced Herod that he deserved to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. When he \_\_\_\_\_ for himself the glory that was due God. (Remind you of anyone?)
- c. When his punishment sent a clear \_\_\_\_\_ that God was real and present.