Acts 11:27-13:3

“The Liberation of St Peter”

Bartolome Esteban Murillo 1665-1667

Problems in Jerusalem (11:27-12:5)

* “Prophets came from Jerusalem

to Antioch” (v11:27)

* + What is a Prophet?
* “This took place in the days of Claudius” (v11:28)
  + This took place between 41and 54 AD.
  + Josephus attests Herod’s death in 44AD, the third year of Claudius’s reign. (*Antiquities*, 19.8.2)
* “”the disciples…sent relief to the brothers in Judea” (v11:29)
* “Herod the king… killed James the brother of John” (v12:1-2)
  + The 4 Herods in the Bible:

1. Herod the Great
   1. Matthew 2
   2. Tried to kill Jesus at birth
   3. Went insane
   4. Ordered death of all 2yr olds in Bethlehem
   5. Ruled from 37-4BC
2. Herod Antipas I
   1. Ruled from 4BC-39 AD
   2. Luke 9&23
   3. Killed JtheB
   4. Tried Jesus Illegally
   5. Ruled during Jesus life and ministry
3. Herod Agrippa I
   1. Ruled from 41-44 AD
   2. Acts 12
   3. Killed the Apostle James
   4. Imprisoned Peter
   5. Killed By an Angel
4. Herod Agrippa II
   1. Ruled during Apostle Paul’s ministry
   2. Married his sister Bernice
   3. Acts 25-26
   4. Tried the Apostle Paul
   5. Sent the Apostle Paul to Caesar at Paul’s request

* “When he saw that it pleased the Jews…” (v12:3)
* What are the days of Unleavened Bread? (Ex 12:14-20)
* “So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church.” (v12:5)

The Effects of Prayer (12:6-17)

* “And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him…” (v7)
* “And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real…” (v9)
* “When Peter came to himself…” (v11)
* “from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” (v11)
* “many were gathered together praying” (v12)
* “you are out of your mind!”… “It is his angel” (v15)
  + What views of prayer are displayed here and by whom?
* And he said, “Tell these things to James and the brothers” (v17)
  + Which James? (cf. 15:13)

The Word of the Lord Increasing (12:18-13:3)

* “Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon… [but] they asked for peace because their country depended on the King’s for food.” (v12:20)
* “The voice of a God and not of a man. Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down.” (v12:23)
  + Why did the Lord strike him down?
* “But the word of God increased and multiplied.” (v.12:24)
* “And Barnabas and Saul returned (to Antioch) bringing John Mark.” (v12:25)
* “Now there were in the Church at Antioch, prophets and teachers.” (v13:1)
  + What’s the difference between a prophet and a teacher?
  + Can someone be both?
* “while worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit said…” (v13:2)
* “they sent them off.” (13:3)
  + Who now?