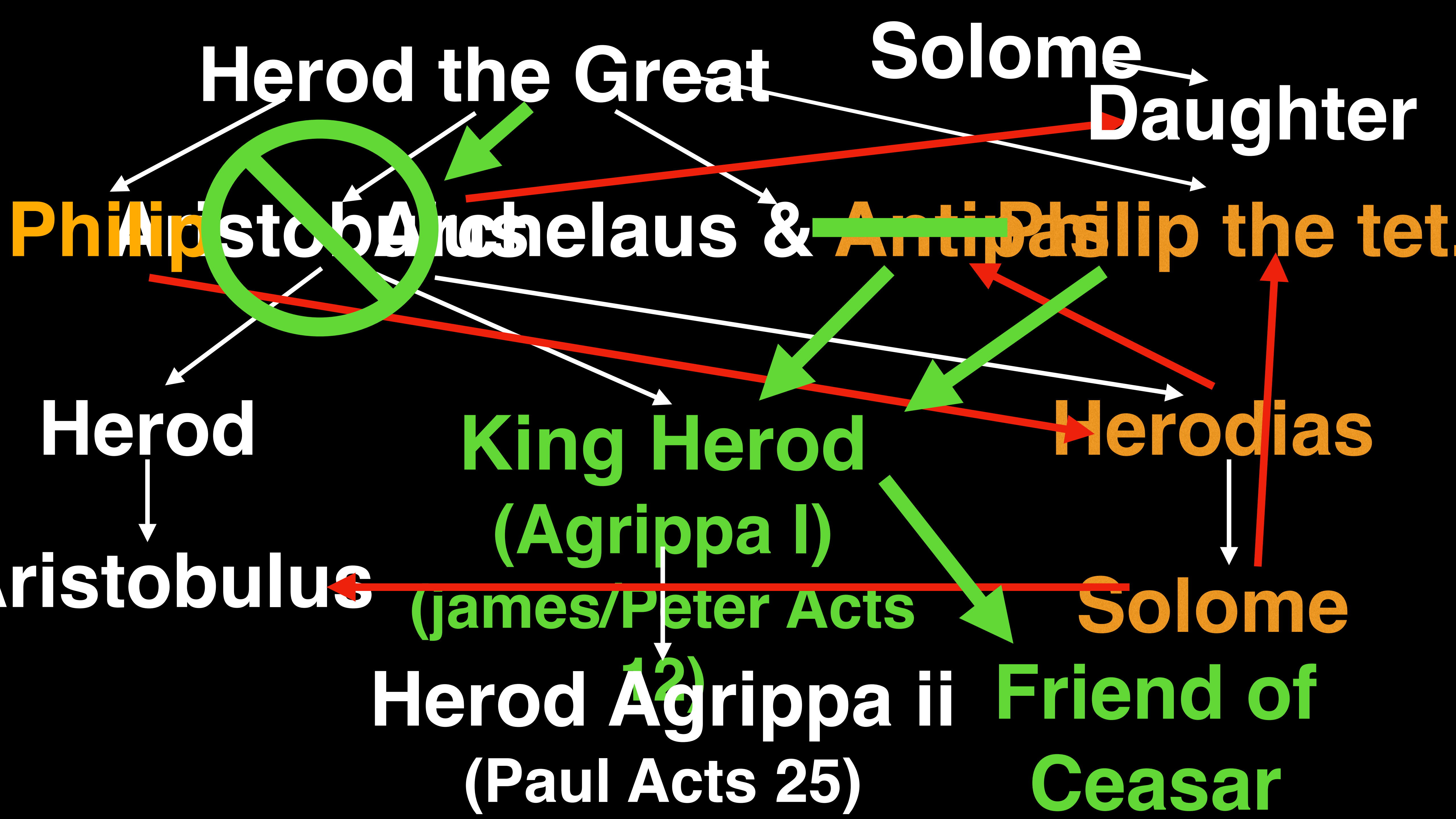


The
book
of

ACTS

12:1-25



Notes:

- ✱ Remember the Herod's were part Jew & were descendents of Esau - generally not well liked
- ✱ What a contrast - James the first apostle to be killed and his brother only one who wasn't
- ✱ Persecution did not start with the government, but from within

Notes:

- ✿ 16 guards - Herod remembered what happened with Jesus (at Passover)... knew Peter was popular with the people
- ✿ Peter is sleeping! Not in a panic, depressed, wondering why God hates him...
- ✿ Why was Rhoda named? = she was given a hard time for years

Notes:

- ✱ v.17 - I thought James was dead?
- ✱ 2nd to last time we see Peter besides chapter 15
- ✱ Caesarea = like the capital

Josephus tells us:

- ▶ **Herod was holding a festival in honor of Caesar Claudias**
- ▶ **He had on a garment made of silver which reflected the sun when he entered the theater**
- ▶ **Got sick immediately & died after 5 days (54 years old)**

Notes:

- ✱ v.17 - I thought James was dead?
- ✱ 2nd to last time we see Peter besides chapter 15
- ✱ Caesarea = like the capital
- ✱ Key = Word of God continued to increase & spread
 - ▶ Today = famine of the Word & serious biblical illiteracy

4 Questions of Acts 12:

1. Have a come what may attitude?

- ▶ Why James & not Peter? Why Herod?**
- ▶ God is sovereign & knows what he is doing**
- ▶ Instead of saying “Why” we should be saying “Why not”**
- ▶ It was the reason Peter could sleep in prison!**

“Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep. 18 I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.’ 19 Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, ‘Follow me!’ 20 Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them.”

~ **John 21:17c-22 | NIV84**

“(This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, ‘Lord, who is going to betray you?’) 21 When Peter saw him, he asked, ‘Lord, what about him?’ 22 Jesus answered, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.’”

~ **John 21:17c-22 | NIV84**

4 Questions of Acts 12:

2. Is prayer paramount?

- ▶ 1st thing we should do, what we should do...not what we do when we have exhausted everything else**
- ▶ Where we see the “But God...”**
- ▶ Again why Peter could rest well**
- ▶ v.5 “Earnestly” & v.12 “many people gathered”**

4 Questions of Acts 12:

- ▶ Obviously God does not base it on how good the prayers were or how faith-filled = just that they were faithful to do it!**
- ▶ Be careful what you ask for!**
- ▶ Prayers for Peter not only answered, but also prayers concerning Herod!**

4 Questions of Acts 12:

3. What or Who are you reflecting?

▶ Son of God or Selfish Pride

- God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6)**

▶ Servanthood or Popularity - Matt. 20:20-23

- Parent or Popular?**

▶ Christ-like or Facebook “likes”

4 Questions of Acts 12:

- ▶ **One will save you & one will make you sick!**
 - **Pride & selfishness will truly consume you leaving a trail of death & destruction**
- ▶ **You will know who you are reflecting by how the world treats you - (if they hated me they will hate you)**
 - **World would love as its own**

“These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.”

~ Proverbs 6:16c-19 | NKJV

4 Questions of Acts 12

4. How is God striking you today?

- ▶ Is he stirring you to get up & go - are paralysed to move on something God has been showing you or have been asleep in your Christianity?**
- ▶ Convicting you, making you sick of your sin!**
- ▶ Either way - Freedom is God's heart for you!**

“Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead, and
Christ will shine on you.”

~ Ephesians 5:14C | NIV84