

*Greetings, today our manna is from Genesis 13; Matthew 12; Nehemiah 2; Acts 12.*

## January 12 – Melchizedek Devotional Perspective

[Note: I have added emphasis with underlines, highlights, and [brackets] to Scripture for teaching purposes only.]

### Genesis 13

#### Abram and Lot Separate

**Gen 13:1** And Abram went up from Mitsrayim into the South, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him.

**Gen 13:2** And Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver, and in gold.

**Gen 13:3** And he went on his journey from the South as far as Běyth Ěl, to the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Běyth Ěl and Ai,

**Gen 13:4** to the place of the slaughter-place which he had made there at first. And there Abram called on the Name of יהוה'.

The opening verses of Genesis 13 record Abram, Sarai, along with all Abram's belongings, and Lot departing from Egypt back to where he had initially pitched his tent between Beyth El and Ai. Abram calls upon the Name of YHWH. YHWH is our compass. He is the one that directs our steps in the correct direction.

**Gen 13:5** Now Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents.

**Gen 13:6** And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together, for **their possessions were great, so that they could not dwell together.**

**Gen 13:7** And there **was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's livestock and the herdsmen of Lot's livestock. And at that time the Kena'anites and the Perizzites dwelt in the land.**

**Gen 13:8** Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, for we are brothers.

**Gen 13:9** "Is not all the land before you? Please separate from me. If you take the left, then I go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I go to the left."

**Gen 13:10** And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of the Yarděn, that it was well watered everywhere – before יהוה' destroyed Sedom and Amarah – like the garden of יהוה', like the land of Mitsrayim as you go toward Tso'ar.

**Gen 13:11** **So Lot chose for himself all the plain of the Yarděn, and Lot moved east. Thus they separated from each other,**

**Gen 13:12** **Abram dwelling in the land of Kena'an, and Lot dwelling in the cities of the plain and pitched his tent as far as Sedom.**

**Gen 13:13** **But the men of Sedom were evil and sinned before יהוה', exceedingly so.**

Gen 13:14 And after Lot had separated from him, יהוה said to Abram, “Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,

Gen 13:15 for all the land which you see I shall give to you and your seed forever.

Gen 13:16 “And I shall make your seed as the dust of the earth, so that, if a man could count the dust of the earth, then your seed also could be counted.

Gen 13:17 “Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you.”

Gen 13:18 **So Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamrē, which are in Hebron, and built a slaughter-place there to יהוה.**

The possessions of both Abram and Lot were great. So great, that it made it impossible to dwell together in one location. Abram gives Lot first choice in the land to dwell. Lot chooses the land east, the plain of the Jordan, that was fertile and well-watered. Lot chose by sight and he pitched his tent as far as Sodom. Even at that time it is recorded that Sodom was evil and exceedingly sinned before YHWH.

Shortly after Abram separated from Lot, YHWH shows Abram the land North-South-East-West that He would give to Abram and his seed forever. Throughout YHWH’s Word, we see the pattern of N-S-E-W directions with Abram; with Moses; with the wilderness encampments; with the gathering of His people; and with the New Jerusalem in Revelation. There are probably more instances recorded but these show us a pattern; and patterns within His Word have meaning.

Moses was instructed to view N-S-E-W:

Deu 3:27 Go up to the top of Pisgah, and lift up your eyes **westward**, and **northward**, and **southward**, and **eastward**, and look with your eyes, for you do not pass over this Yardēn.

Wilderness encampments were N-S-E-W as well as the encampments of the priests around the Dwelling Place.

Num 2:3 And on the **east side**, towards sunrise: those of **the banner of the camp of Yehudāh** camp according to their divisions. And the leader of the children of Yehudāh: Naḥshon, son of Amminadab.

Num 2:10 On the **south side**: **the banner of the camp of Re’uḇēn** according to their divisions, and the leader of the children of Re’uḇēn: Elitsur, son of Shedgēy’ur.

Num 2:18 **On the west side**: **the banner of the camp of Ephrayim** according to their divisions, and the leader of the children of Ephrayim: Elishama, son of Ammihud.

Num 2:25 On the **north side**: **the banner of the camp of Dan**, according to their divisions, and the leader of the children of Dan: Aḥi’ezer, son of Ammishaddai.

Gathering of His people:

Luk 13:29 “And they shall come from the east and the west, and from the north and the south, and sit down in the reign of Elohim.

The New Jerusalem described by N-S-E-W.

Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the set-apart Yerushalayim, descending out of the heaven from Elohim,

Rev 21:11 having the esteem of Elohim, and her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal,

Rev 21:12 and having a great and high wall, having twelve gates, and at the gates twelve messengers, and names written on them, which are those of the twelve tribes of the children of Yisra'el:<sup>c</sup> Footnote: <sup>c</sup>See [Eze 47:22-23](#), [Eze 48:31-34](#).

Rev 21:13 three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west.

## Matthew 12

### Yahusha is Elohim of the Sabbath

**Mat 12:1** At that time יהושע went through the grain fields on the Sabbath. And His taught ones were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain, to eat.

**Mat 12:2** And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, “Look, Your taught ones are doing what is not right to do on the Sabbath!”

**Mat 12:3** But He said to them, “Have you not read what Dawid did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:

**Mat 12:4** how he went into the House of Elohim and ate the showbread which was not right for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?

**Mat 12:5** “Or did you not read in the Torah that on the Sabbath the priests in the Set-apart Place profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?

**Mat 12:6** “But I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the Set-apart Place.

**Mat 12:7** “And if you had known what this means, ‘**I desire compassion and not offering,**’ [Hos 6:6](#) you would **not have condemned the blameless.**

**Mat 12:8** “For the **Son of Adam is Master of the Sabbath.**”<sup>a</sup> Footnote: <sup>a</sup>See also [Gen 2:2-3](#).

We are either in or approaching the 7<sup>th</sup> millennium. Yahusha is the Elohim of the Sabbath, the 7<sup>th</sup> day.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved ones, let not this one matter be hidden from you: that with יהוה one day is as a thousand years, and **a thousand years as one day.** [Psa 90:4](#).

Those in Him have entered His rest. Though storms rage all around us, in Yahusha there is shalom. He desires a covenant relationship with His bride. He speaks to His bride through His Word and through His Ruach HaKodesh. He meets with His bride on His moedim inclusive of His Sabbath's and feasts or 'wedding rehearsals.' These are precious moments on His calendar ever before Him.

### A Man with a Withered Hand

**Mat 12:9** And having left there, He went into their congregation.

**Mat 12:10** And see, there was a man having a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, "Is it right to heal on the Sabbath?" – so as to accuse Him.

**Mat 12:11** And He said to them, **"What man is there among you who has one sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, shall not take hold of it and lift it out?"**

**Mat 12:12** **"How much more worth is a man than a sheep! So it is right to do good on the Sabbath."**

**Mat 12:13** Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored, as healthy as the other.

**Mat 12:14** **But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against Him, so as to destroy Him.**

Yahusha provides a 'teachable' moment when He encounters a man with a withered hand. He shares a story of rescuing a sheep on the Sabbath; which demonstrates 'compassion.' If compassion is shown to a sheep; how much more should compassion be shown to mankind on a Sabbath.

Yahusha provided compassionate healing; while in contrast the Pharisees exhibited hatred and the desire to kill Him. Clearly a contrast between good vs. evil; good fruit versus bad fruit.

### YHWH's Chosen Servant

**Mat 12:15** But יהושע, knowing it, withdrew from there. And large crowds followed Him, and He healed them all,

**Mat 12:16** and warned them not to make Him known,

**Mat 12:17** in order that what was spoken by Yeshayahu the prophet, might be filled, saying,

**Mat 12:18** **"See, My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My being did delight. I shall put My Spirit upon Him, and He shall declare right-ruling to the nations.**

**Mat 12:19** **"He shall not strive nor cry out, nor shall anyone hear His voice in the**

streets.

Mat 12:20 **“A crushed reed He shall not break, and smoking flax He shall not quench, till He brings forth right-ruling forever.**

Mat 12:21 **“And the nations shall trust in His Name.”**<sup>b</sup> [Isa 42:1-4](#). Footnote: <sup>b</sup>This is according to the Shem-Tob Hebrew text. However, this passage is a quote from [Isa 42:1-3](#) where it reads *right-ruling unto truth*.

At our weakest point, He is strongest in our lives. His power is perfected in our weakness [2Cor. 12:9]. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He was, He is, and will be the One that fulfills all prophecies spoken about Him that undeniably identifies Him as the Messiah.

### Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

Mat 12:22 Then they brought to Him one who was demon-possessed, blind and dumb. And He healed him, so that the blind and dumb man both spoke and saw.

Mat 12:23 And all the crowds were amazed and said, “Is this the Son of Dawid?”

Mat 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard it they said, **“This one does not cast out demons except by Be’elzebul, the ruler of the demons.”**

Mat 12:25 And יהושע knew their thoughts, and said to them, “Every reign divided against itself is laid waste, and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.

Mat 12:26 “And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then does his reign stand?”

Mat 12:27 “And if I, by Be’elzebul, do cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Because of this they shall be your judges.

Mat 12:28 “But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of Elohim, then the reign of Elohim has come upon you.

Mat 12:29 “Or how is one able to enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he shall plunder his house.

Mat 12:30 **“He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.**

Mat 12:31 **“Because of this I say to you, all sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven men.**

Mat 12:32 **“And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Adam, it shall be forgiven him, but whoever speaks against the Set-apart Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.**

These verses speak to the unpardonable sin, [the blasphemy against the Spirit of YHWH, the Ruach HaKodesh](#). Yahusha immediately tells them in Matthew 12:25 what would happen by those accusing Him, Yahusha, of casting out the demons by Be'elzebul and not [by the Spirit of Elohim](#).

[Forty years later](#), the city of Jerusalem would be laid waste. The only ones that would be protected would be those [under the blood of the Lamb being led by the Ruach HaKodesh](#).

### A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit

**Mat 12:33** “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten, for a tree is known by its fruit.

**Mat 12:34** “**Brood of adders!** How are you able to speak what is good – being wicked? For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart.

**Mat 12:35** “The good man brings forth what is good from the good treasures of his heart, and the wicked man brings forth what is wicked from the wicked treasure.

**Mat 12:36** “**And I say to you that for every idle word men speak, they shall give an account of it in the day of judgment.**

**Mat 12:37** “**For by your words you shall be declared righteous, and by your words you shall be declared unrighteous.**”

Those that have received Yahusha will appear before Him at the [Bema Seat Judgement](#) to be given [their rewards](#) done in Him and for Him, through His Spirit. These are those whose sins [have already been forgiven](#).

Those that reject Yahusha, and thereby reject the Ruach HaKodesh that comes through repentance and faith, will go through the [Great White Throne Judgement](#). They will be judged according to [their words and deeds](#) placed in comparison to His Word. They will fall short. Most, if not all, will not even be able to speak.

### The Sign of Jonah

**Mat 12:38** Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from You.”

**Mat 12:39** But He answering, said to them, “A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Yonah.

**Mat 12:40** “For as **Yonah was three days and three nights in the stomach of the great fish, [Jon 1:17](#)** so shall the **Son of Adam be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

**Mat 12:41** “Men of Ninewēh shall stand up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Yonah, and look, a greater than

Yonah is here.

**Mat 12:42** “The sovereignty of the South shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Shelomoh, and look, a greater than Shelomoh is here.

Yahusha’s new covenant confirming gospel message is clearly articulated by Paul:

1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you at the first that which I also received: that **Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures,**

1Co 15:4 and that **He was buried,** and that **He was raised the third day, according to the Scriptures,**

1Co 15:5 and that **He was seen by Kěpha, then by the twelve.**

1Co 15:6 After that **He was seen by over five hundred brothers at one time,** of whom the greater part remain till now, but some have fallen asleep.

1Co 15:7 After that **He was seen by Ya’aqob, then by all the emissaries.**

1Co 15:8 And last of all **He was seen by me also,** as if to one born prematurely.

1Co 15:9 For I am the least of the emissaries, who am not worthy to be called an emissary, because I persecuted the assembly of Elohim.

### Return of an Unclean Spirit

**Mat 12:43** “Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.

**Mat 12:44** “Then it says, ‘I shall return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and decorated.

**Mat 12:45** “Then it goes and takes with it **seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they enter and dwell there.** And the last of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”

If a person does not have the Ruach HaKodesh, he is vulnerable to demonic possession and strong man spirits. If someone comes desiring deliverance, yet in their heart they don’t truly desire to receive the Deliverer, Yahusha; then that individual could end up worse off than before.

Therefore, ‘deliverance’ should not be done to individuals that do NOT want to receive Yahusha and the indwelling of the Ruach HaKodesh. The goal would be to bind and cast out any demonic spirits; and loose within the individual the fruit of the Spirit which is received by faith in Yahusha through the indwelling Ruach HaKodesh.

Keep in mind, believers can be ‘oppressed’ by evil spirits, but no longer ‘possessed’ by evil spirits. Today we still see believers that are oppressed with drugs, alcohol, depression, suicidal tendencies, and so forth. These can be conquered through the sanctification process of His Word and taking authority in the Name of Yahusha HaMashiach.

### Yahusha's Mother and Brothers

**Mat 12:46** And while He was still talking to the crowds, see, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him.

**Mat 12:47** And one said to Him, “See, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.”

**Mat 12:48** But He answering, said to the one who spoke to Him, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”

**Mat 12:49** And having stretched out His hand toward His taught ones, He said, “See My mother and My brothers!

**Mat 12:50** “For whoever does the desire of My Father who is in the heavens is My brother and sister and mother.”<sup>C</sup> Footnote: <sup>C</sup>See [Luk 8:21](#) where the wording differs slightly.

In Him, we become a ‘kingdom of priests’ under the order of Melchizedek. This priesthood does not require the ‘proper earthly mother / father lineage’ connected to Aaron as did the Aaronic Levitical Priesthood.

Those that believe in the One true living Elohim of heaven and receive His Son, become Yahusha’s brother, sister, and mother. We are one in Him and we are now connected as one family. Our earthly parents and siblings are earthly. Our spiritual family is spiritual; and are those that have ‘crossed over.’

## Nehemiah 2

### Nehemiah Sent to Judah

**Neh 2:1** And it came to be in the new *moon* of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artahshashta the sovereign, when wine was before him, that I took the wine and gave it to the sovereign. And I had never been sad in his presence.

Nehemiah 2 begins in the new month of Nisan or Abib, which is the first month on YHWH’s calendar. This verse clearly states that it was the 20<sup>th</sup> year of King Artaxerxes. Nehemiah is identified as a cupbearer to the king and on this occasion, Nehemiah could not hide his soul being downcast. This wasn’t Nehemiah’s norm and the king acknowledge that something was wrong.



**Neh 2:2** And the sovereign said to me, “Why is your face sad, since you are not sick? This is none else but sorrow of heart.” **Then I was very much afraid,**

This was the moment of opportunity that Nehemiah had prayed about to YHWH in Nehemiah 1:11. When Nehemiah heard the words of the sovereign, he was quickened in his spirit knowing he would answer truthfully in the midst of fear and pray he would be shown favor.

**Neh 2:3** **and said to the sovereign,** “Let the sovereign live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers’ burial-sites, lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire?”

**Neh 2:4** And the sovereign said to me, “What are you asking for?” **Then I prayed to the Elohim of the heavens,**

**Neh 2:5** **and said to the sovereign,**

- ✚ “If it seems good to the sovereign, and if your servant is pleasing before you, I ask that you send me to Yehudāh, to the city of my fathers’ burial-sites, so that I build it.”

**Neh 2:6** And the sovereign, with the sovereigness sitting beside him, said to me, “How long would your journey take? And when do you return?” So it seemed good before the sovereign to send me. And I set him a time.

**Neh 2:7** **And I said to the sovereign,**

- ✚ “If it seems good to the sovereign, let letters be given to me for the governors beyond the River, that they should let me to pass through till I come to Yehudāh,
- ✚ **Neh 2:8** and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the sovereign’s forest, that he should give me timber to make beams for the gates of the palace that belongs to the House, and for the city wall, and for the house I would enter.” **And the sovereign gave them to me according to the good hand of my Elohim upon me.**

### **Nehemiah Inspects Jerusalem’s Walls**

**Neh 2:9** Then I came to the governors beyond the River, and gave to them the letters of the sovereign. **Now the sovereign had sent commanders of the army and horsemen with me.**

**Neh 2:10** And Sanballat the Hōronite and Tōbīyah the Ammonite official heard of it, and to them it was evil, a great evil that a man had come to seek good for the children of Yisra’ēl.

Sanballat and Tōbīyah, the enemy of the children of Israel, acknowledge the sovereign’s letters but in no way are pleased. They saw helping the children of Israel as a great evil.

**Neh 2:11** **Then I came to Yerushalayim and was there three days.**

**Neh 2:12** And I rose up in the night, I and a few men with me, but informed no one what my Elohim had put in my heart to do at Yerushalayim, nor was there any beast with me,

except the beast on which I rode.

Nehemiah keeps a low profile and inspects the walls of Jerusalem by night. He had not yet spoken to anyone of the plans that Elohim had placed in his heart. The less said the better.

**Neh 2:13** And I went out by night through the **Valley Gate to the Jackals' Fountain and the Dung Gate**, and examined the walls of Yerushalayim which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire.

**Neh 2:14** And I went on to the **Fountain Gate** and to **the Sovereign's Pool**, but there was no room for the beast that was under me to pass.

**Neh 2:15** And I went up in the night by the wadi, and examined the wall, and turned back, and entered by the Valley Gate, and returned.

**Neh 2:16** And the deputy rulers did not know where I had gone nor what I had done. Nor had I yet informed the Yehudim, or the priests, or the nobles, or the deputy rulers, or the others who did the work.

**Neh 2:17** Then I said to them, "You see the evil which we are in, how Yerushalayim lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Yerushalayim, and let us no longer be a reproach."

**Neh 2:18** And **I informed them of the hand of my Elohim which had been good upon me, and also of the sovereign's words he had spoken to me.** And they said, "**Let us rise up and we shall build.**" So they made their hands strong for good.

Word gets back to Sanballat, Tobiyah, and Geshem

**Neh 2:19** But when Sanballat the Hōronite heard, and Tobiyah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arab, they mocked us and despised us, and said, "What is this you are doing? Are you rebelling against the sovereign?"

**Neh 2:20** And I answered them, and said to them, "**The Elohim of the heavens, He shall bless us and let us, His servants, rise and build, but you have no portion or right or remembrance in Yerushalayim.**"

## Acts 12

### James Killed and Peter Imprisoned

**Act 12:1** And about that time **Herodes the sovereign put forth his hands to do evil to some from the assembly.**

**Act 12:2** And **he killed Ya'aqoḇ the brother of Yoḥanan with the sword.**

**Act 12:3** And seeing that it was pleasing to the Yehudim, he proceeded further to **arrest Kēpha as well** – and they were the **Days of Unleavened Bread**.

**Act 12:4** So when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and **delivered him to four**

**squads of soldiers** to watch over him, intending to bring him before the people after Pěsaḥ.

**Act 12:5** So Kěpha was indeed kept in prison, but prayer was earnestly made to Elohim on his behalf by the assembly.

Extra measures always seem to be instituted against YHWH’s people. Whether the fires are heated seven times hotter; or Daniel is thrown in the lion’s den; or in this case four squads of soldiers are assigned to Peter in prison; or when Paul and Silas are beaten with rods then put in the ‘inner’ prison and their feet in stocks! These extra measures reveal that even though earthly authority figures may reject YHWH and His Son; at the same time, they greatly fear His power.

**Four quaternions of soldiers** - That is, sixteen, or four companies of four men each, who had the care of the prison, each company taking in turn one of the four watches of the night.

<b>40</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peter has to defend having preached in a Gentile house to the church leaders in Jerusalem (Ac. 11)</li> <li>Missionaries from Cyrene come to Antioch in Syria and preach to the Gentiles (Ac. 11:20)</li> <li>Saul is preaching in Cilicia and Syria</li> </ul>		
<b>41</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saul is preaching in Cilicia and Syria</li> </ul>		Caligula assassinated; Claudius is emperor
<b>42</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saul is preaching in Cilicia and Syria</li> <li>Barnabus is sent to visit the church in Antioch by the Jerusalem church (Ac. 11:22)</li> </ul>		
<b>43</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Saul is preaching in Cilicia and Syria</li> <li>Barnabus leaves Antioch to look for Saul in Tarsus (Ac. 11:25)</li> <li>Barnabus brings Saul back to teach in the church in Antioch in Syria (Ac. 11:26)</li> <li>Saul teaches in Antioch for a year (Ac. 11:26)</li> <li>Believers are called "Christians"</li> </ul>		Rome invades Britain
<b>44</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agabus, a prophet from Jerusalem, visits Antioch church</li> <li>Antioch church sends Paul and Barnabus to Jerusalem with an offering (11:29,30)</li> <li>James is beheaded by Herod Agrippa I</li> <li>Peter is arrested but an angel releases him</li> <li>Herod Agrippa I dies in Caesarea (12:18)</li> </ul>	James – bro of John (Acts 12:1-2) This was James the greater, son of Zebedee, and must be distinguished from James the less, son of Alphaeus.	Herod Agrippa I Dies
<b>45</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul and Barnabus return to Antioch</li> <li>John Mark leaves Jerusalem to go to Antioch with Paul and Barnabus</li> </ul>	James writes James from Jerusalem Bro. of Yahusha	
<b>46</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul and Barnabus leave for first missionary journey</li> </ul>		

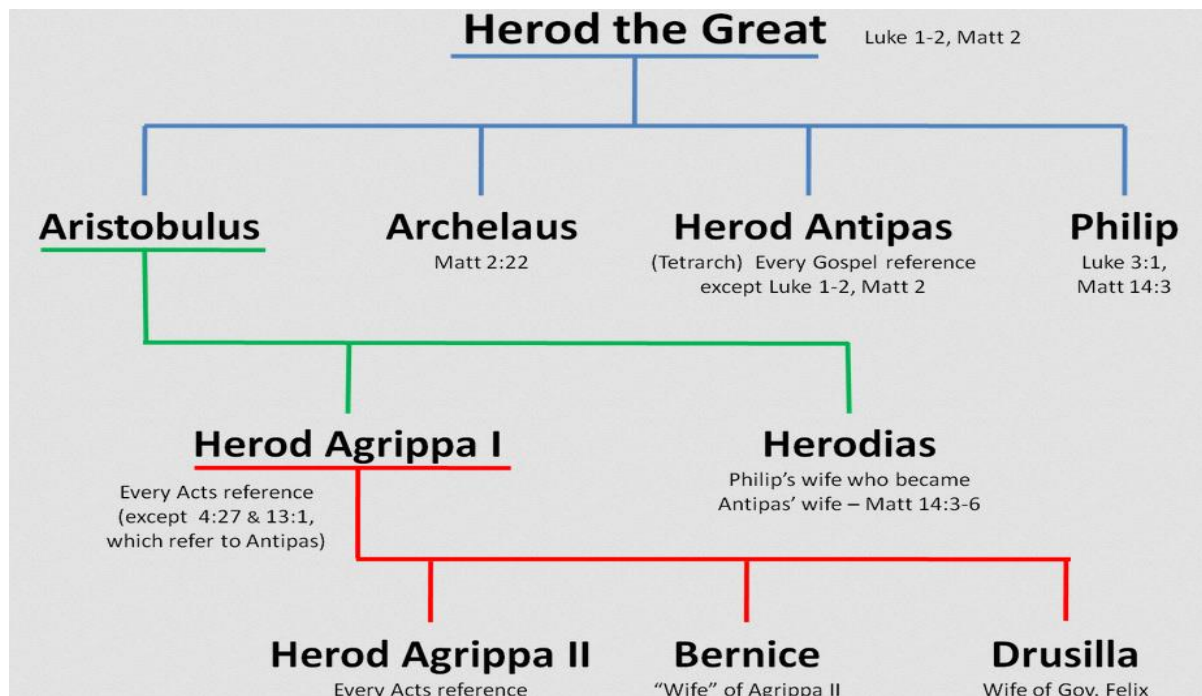
Acts 11 & 12 covers approximately 5 years!

Herod desired to do evil to the assembly of believers and therefore beheads James, the brother of John; one of the sons of Zebedee. Herod, seeing this pleased the ‘Yehudim’, arrests Peter and puts him under **four squads of soldiers** while he waited for either Passover to be completed or some translations state Easter.

Easter and Passover are NOT synonymous. Easter is the celebration of the fertility goddess Ishtar. ‘Easter’ is celebrated among pagans or nonbelievers. Herod would have been in that paganistic group of unbelievers along with those that call themselves ‘Jews’ and are not. This is taking place about 10-12 years since the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Yahusha.

This Herod is Herod Agrippa I a descendant of Herod the Great, an Idumean or Edomite. [Matthew 2:1] – The chart below was obtained from the internet and not fully vetted.

Herod Agrippa I  
 Died 44 AD  
**Acts 12:1-24**  
 Ruled All Palestine;  
 Decapitated James;  
 Died in Caesarea;  
 Descendent of  
 Maccabees by  
 Mariamne I



### Peter Is Rescued

Act 12:6 And **when Herodes was about to bring him out, that night Kēpha was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers.** And the guards before the door were keeping the prison.

**Act 12:7** And see, **a messenger of יהוה** stood by, and a light shone in the building. And **smiting the side of Kěpha he raised him up, saying, “Get up quickly!”** And his chains fell off his hands.

**Act 12:8** And the messenger said to him, “Gird yourself and bind on your sandals,” and he did so. And he said to him, “Put on your garment and follow me.”

**Act 12:9** And coming out he followed him, and knew not that what was done by the messenger was true, but **thought he was seeing a vision.**

**Act 12:10** And when they had passed the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them by itself. And they went out and went down one street, and the messenger instantly withdrew from him.

**Act 12:11** And when Kěpha had come to himself, he said, **“Now I truly know that יהוה has sent His messenger, and delivered me from the hand of Herodes and from all the Yehudi people were anticipating.”**

**Adam Clarke’s commentary records:**

**The first and - second ward** - It is supposed that ancient Jerusalem was surrounded by three walls: if so, then passing through the gates of these three walls successively is possibly what is meant by the expression in the text. The prison in which he was confined might have been that which was at the outer wall.

**Iron gate** - This was in the innermost wall of the three, and was strongly plated over with iron, for the greater security. In the east, the gates are often thus secured to the present day. Pitts says so of the gates of Algiers; and Pocock, of some near Antioch. Perhaps this is all that is meant by the iron gate. One of the quaternions of soldiers was placed at each gate.

**Which opened - of his own accord** - Influenced by the unseen power of the angel.

**Act 12:12** And having realised this, **he went to the house of Miryam, the mother of Yohanan who was also called Marqos, where many had gathered to pray.**

**Act 12:13** And when Kěpha knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhode came to answer.

**Act 12:14** And when she recognised Kěpha’s voice, she did not open the gate because of her joy, but ran in and reported that Kěpha stood before the gate.

**Act 12:15** And they said to her, “You are mad!” But she kept insisting that it was so, and they said, “It is his messenger.”

**Act 12:16** And Kěpha continued knocking, and having opened they saw him and were amazed.

**Act 12:17** **And motioning to them with his hand to be silent, he told them how the Master brought him out of the prison. And he said, “Report this to Ya’aqob and to the brothers.”** And he left and went to another place.

James, the brother of Yahusha, was the head over the Jerusalem Council. This is probably who Peter is wanting the events reported to.

**Act 12:18** Now when day came, there was no small stir among the soldiers about what

had become of Kěpha.

**Act 12:19** And when Herodes had searched for him and did not find him, **he examined the guards and ordered them to be led away.** And he went down from Yehudāh to Caesarea, and stayed there.

More than likely, this meant the guards were led away to be killed. Guards were responsible for their prisoners and the penalty for losing a prisoner could mean their death. It was a very serious matter and we see several accounts in His Word.

### The Death of Herod

**Act 12:20** Now Herodes had been highly displeased with the people of Tsor and Tsidon, but with one mind they came to him, and having made Blastos the sovereign's eunuch their friend, they were asking for peace, because their country was supplied with food by the sovereign's *country*.

**Act 12:21** And on an appointed day Herodes, having put on his royal clothes, sat on his throne and gave an address to them.

**Act 12:22** And the people kept shouting, "The voice of a mighty one and not of a man!"

**Act 12:23** And instantly a messenger of יהוה smote him, because he did not give the esteem to Elohim. And becoming worm-eaten, he died.

**Act 12:24** And the word of Elohim went on growing and spreading.

Barnabas and Paul prepare to start their 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary journey taking along John Mark.

**Act 12:25** And Barnāba and Sha'ul returned from Yerushalayim, having completed the service, and having taken with them Yoḥanan who was also called Marqos.

**To understand the 'back story' to this event, we turn to the historian Josephus:**

"Herod, having reigned three years over All Judea, (he had reigned over the tetrarchy of his brother Philip four years before this), went down to Caesarea, and there exhibited shows and games in honor of Claudius, and made vows for his health. On the second day of these shows, he put on a garment made wholly of silver, and of a contexture most truly wonderful, and came into the theater early in the morning; at which time the silver of his garment, being illuminated by the first reflection of the sun's rays, shone out after a surprising manner, and was so resplendent as to spread a horror over those who looked intently upon him; and presently his flatterers cried out, one from one place, and another from another, 'He is a god:' and they added, 'Be thou merciful to us, for although we have hitherto revered thee only as a man, yet shall we henceforth own thee as superior to mortal nature.' Nor did the king rebuke them, nor reject their impious flattery. But, looking up, he saw an owl on a certain rope over his head, and immediately conceived that this bird was to him a messenger of ill tidings; and he fell into the deepest sorrow; a severe pain also arose in his bowels, and he died after five days' severe illness." This is the sum of the account given by Josephus, Ant. lib. xix. cap. 8, sect. 2. (See Whiston's edition.)

~ Shalom ~ Libby

Devotional Reading Plan Link: <http://www.mcheyne.info/calendar.pdf>