

July 30, 2023

Acts 12:20-25

Misplaced Confidence, The Perils Of Pride, When gods Die

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The people hailed Agrippa as more than a mortal, yes, a god. Agrippa was immediately gripped in the clutches of unimaginable pain. He was literally carried out and died five days later. This was the work of an angel of the Lord, [v 23](#).

Agrippa was struck when he gave no praise to God, nor did he try to stop the people from chanting out their blasphemous acclamation. Pride was eating him alive and now worms that had manifested in his abdomen did the same.

Herod did not give glory to God, he was a glory stealer. The worms ate him up for his trouble. These tape worms are common in areas with sheep and cattle. They make their way into a human, form a cyst, it bursts, and releases up to two million scolices. This is the same word in [Mark 9:44](#) that says where the worm dieth not, again from the word scolex. Five days of terrible pain ensued, a shameful death having just left such a festival. Not giving God the glory was his crime. He was condemned.

The people's groveling over him, pleased him. Pride went before the fall just as in the case of Nebuchadnezzar. God smote him.

Paul and Barnabas return from their mission of delivering the famine relief offering. It seems likely that this return from Jerusalem took place sometime in A. D. 46, two years later. They return with one John Mark in tow. Ultimately at this point it would be Paul who would take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

[V 24](#), Herod perished, the Word flourished. The Word thrives under persecution.

Application:

[Psalm 20:7](#), "Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God." (NLT) [Proverbs 16:18](#), "Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall." (CSB) [Isaiah 44:9-20](#), read about the absurdity of false god idols. [Acts 12:23](#), "Instantly, an angel of the Lord struck Herod with a sickness, because he accepted the people's worship instead of giving the glory to God." (NLT) Consider what or Who you "really" place your confidence in. [Psalm 51:17](#), "The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God." (NLT), stay humble. Give God the rightful place in your life. [Deuteronomy 31:8](#), "The LORD is the one who will go before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or abandon you. Do not be afraid or discouraged. (CSB)