



Pastor Scott Archer 09.14.2014*
Central Congregational Church
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Kingdoms In Conflict

Series: *Our Place in God's Plan – A Study in the Book of Acts*
Acts 12:1-25

Central Thought: God's word and work in and through Jesus Christ will outlast and overcome every attempt to defeat it, in your life and in this world.

John 16:33 (NIV) — 33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**”

Act I – Herod kills James and has Peter arrested.

Acts 12:1–4 (NIV) — 1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. **2** He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. **3 When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also.** This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. **4** After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

- ❖ As followers of Christ, we are in a real conflict with real casualties.

Act II – Peter is rescued by an an angel of the Lord

Acts 12:6–7 (NIV) — 6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. **7** Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light...

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shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. (Read through verse 10; See Rom. 8:28).

- ❖ God's sovereign purposes are moving forward in the midst of the conflict.

Act III – The Church gathers and prays

Acts 12:5 (NIV) — 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was **earnestly praying** to God for him.

Acts 12:14–15 (NIV) — 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!” **15 “You're out of your mind,”** they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.”

- ❖ God responds to our prayers even when our faith falters.

Act IV – Herod dies and the word of God spreads

Acts 12:21–24 (NIV) — 21 On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. **22** They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” **23** Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. **24 But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.**

- ❖ God's word and purpose never fail!
 - (See also Revelation chapters 12 and 20).

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