

Acts 12:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

Analysis

And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. The Canaanite conquest's recounting emphasizes God's judgment on wickedness while fulfilling covenant promises to Abraham's descendants.

Historical Context

Seven nations (Deuteronomy 7:1—Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites) represent complete conquest. Destroyed (Greek: *kathaireo*) means demolished/overthrew. Divided by lot (Joshua 13-19) ensured fair distribution. Paul's reference around 48 CE reminded hearers of God's faithfulness fulfilling ancient promises. The conquest typologically foreshadowed Christ conquering spiritual enemies and giving inheritance to His people.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does conquest demonstrate both divine judgment and covenant faithfulness?
2. What does complete victory teach about God's thorough redemption?
3. In what ways does land inheritance foreshadow spiritual inheritance in Christ?
4. Why recount conquest when preaching gospel centuries later?
5. What does fulfilling ancient promises reveal about God's reliability?

Interlinear Text

Ἡρώδης	δὲ	ἐπιζητήσας	αὐτὸν	καὶ	μὴ	εὕρων
Herod	And	had sought for	him	And	not	found him
G2264	G1161	G1934	G846	G2532	G3361	G2147
ἀνακρίνας	τοὺς	φύλακας	ἐκέλευσεν			
he examined		the keepers	and commanded			
G350	G3588	G5441	G2753			
ἀπαχθῆναι		καὶ	κατελθὼν	ἀπὸ	τῆς	Ἰουδαίας
that they should be put to death		And	he went down	from		Judaea
G520		G2532	G2718	G575	G3588	G2449
εἰς	τὴν	Καيسάρειαν	διέτριβεν			
to		Caesarea	and there abode			
G1519	G3588	G2542	G1304			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:27 (Parallel theme): And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

