

Acts 12:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

Analysis

And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. The judges period, spanning 450 years, demonstrates God's repeated deliverance despite Israel's cyclical rebellion.

Historical Context

Four hundred and fifty years (approximate, depending on chronological systems) covered judges period (Judges-1 Samuel). Gave judges indicates God's merciful provision of deliverers when Israel repented. The cyclical pattern (sin, oppression, repentance, deliverance) demonstrated human unfaithfulness versus divine faithfulness. Until Samuel transitions toward monarchy. Paul's summary around 48 CE established pattern—God persistently pursues rebellious people, preparing gospel theme of grace to undeserving sinners.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does cyclical rebellion teach about human nature?
2. How does God's repeated deliverance demonstrate persistent grace?
3. In what ways does judges period foreshadow need for permanent Savior?
4. Why emphasize ancestors' failures in gospel presentation?
5. What does 450 years of patience reveal about God's redemptive commitment?

Interlinear Text

Ἔν δὲ ὁ Ἡρόδης θυμομαχῶν Τυρίοις καὶ
was And G3588 Herod highly displeased with them of Tyre and
G2258 G1161 G2264 G2371 G5183 G2532

Σιδωνίοις· ὥμοθυμαδὸν δὲ παρῆσαν πρὸς αὐτῶν καὶ
Sidon with one accord And they came to him and
G4606 G3661 G1161 G3918 G4314 G846 G2532

πείσαντες Βλάστον τὸν ἐπὶ τοῦ κοιτῶνος τοῦ
having made Blastus G3588 chamberlain G3588 G2846 G3588
G3982 G986 G1909

βασιλέως ἡτοῦντο εἰρήνην διὰ τὸ τρέφεσθαι αὐτῶν
the king's desired peace because G3588 was nourished him
G935 G154 G1515 G1223 G5142 G846

τὴν χώραν ἀπὸ τῆς βασιλικῆς
G3588 country by G3588 the king's
G5561 G575 G937

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 3:7 (Kingdom): They gave money also unto the masons, and to the carpenters; and meat, and drink, and oil, unto them of Zidon, and to them of Tyre, to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea of Joppa, according to the grant that they had of Cyrus king of Persia.

Ezekiel 27:17 (Parallel theme): Judah, and the land of Israel, they were thy merchants: they traded in thy market wheat of Minnith, and Pannag, and honey, and oil, and balm.

Luke 16:8 (Parallel theme): And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

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