

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

Ἦν	δὲ	ὁ	Ἡρώδης	θυμομαχῶν	Τυρίοις	καὶ
was	And	G3588	Herod	highly displeased	with them of Tyre	and
G2258	G1161		G2264	G2371	G5183	G2532
Σιδωνίοις·	ὁμοθυμαδὸν	δὲ	παρῆσαν	πρὸς	αὐτῶν	καὶ
Sidon	with one accord	And	they came	to	him	and
G4606	G3661	G1161	G3918	G4314	G846	G2532
πεῖσαντες	Βλάστον	τὸν	ἐπὶ	τοῦ	κοιτῶνος	τοῦ
having made	Blastus	G3588	chamberlain	G3588	G2846	G3588
G3982	G986		G1909			
βασιλέως	ἤτοῦντο	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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