

Acts 12:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

Analysis

Herod's immediate divine judgment ('the angel of the Lord smote him') for accepting worship demonstrates God's jealous protection of His glory. The gruesome death by worms ('eaten of worms') serves as vivid warning against usurping divine honor. This judgment recalls similar Old Testament deaths of those claiming divine status.

Historical Context

Herod Agrippa I died in Caesarea (AD 44) during festivals honoring Caesar, according to Josephus who confirms the worm-eaten death. His acceptance of crowd's acclamation ('voice of a god, not man,' v. 22) constituted explicit blasphemy meriting immediate judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does Herod's judgment teach about God's response to human pride and self-deification?
2. How should believers guard against more subtle forms of glory-stealing today?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------|-----------------------|----------|-------|-----------|-------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| παραχρῆμα | δὲ | ἐπάταξεν | αὐτὸν | ἄγγελος | κυρίου | ἀνθ | | |
| immediately | And | smote | him | the angel | of the Lord | because | | |
| G3916 | G1161 | G3960 | G846 | G32 | G2962 | G473 | | |
| ὧν | οὐκ | ἔδωκεν | τὴν | δόξαν | τῷ | θεῷ | καὶ | γενόμενος |
| G3739 | not | he gave | G3588 | the glory | G3588 | God | and | he was |
| | G3756 | G1325 | | G1391 | | G2316 | G2532 | G1096 |
| σκωληκόβρωτος | ἐξέψυξεν | | | | | | | |
| eaten of worms | and gave up the ghost | | | | | | | |
| G4662 | G1634 | | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 115:1 (Glory): Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 (References God): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

1 Samuel 25:38 (References Lord): And it came to pass about ten days after, that the LORD smote Nabal, that he died.

Isaiah 66:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Isaiah 51:8 (Parallel theme): For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

Ezekiel 28:2 (References God): Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God:

Isaiah 14:11 (Parallel theme): Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

Isaiah 37:23 (Parallel theme): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Job 19:26 (References God): And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Job 7:5 (Parallel theme): My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.