

SEVEN SHORT WORDS

(Eleven in English)

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

TEXT: *“And he killed James, the brother of John with the sword.”* (Acts 13:2).

A. Man, when he wishes to describe something; its importance is usually determined by the amount of space, time used.

1. Death of Joe Dimagio this week.
2. Political activities
3. Books that have been written.

B. Some of the Most memorable statements made by God are very short.

1. “Jesus wept” (John 11:35)
2. Psalms 23
3. John 3:16.

C. TWO SUCH STATEMENTS MADE IN ACTS 12.

1. *“And he killed James, the brother of John with the sword.”* (How we might have given the details.
 2. *“But the word of God grew and multiplied”* Again How we would have described it.
 3. Let’s notice these and some of the things that happened in between.
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KILLED JAMES

A. First, and only recorded death of an apostle. We probably would add.....

1. One of the “three” that often went with Jesus.
2. Would talk of his faith, conviction, courage, eloquence, etc. How much we would have written....

B. OF INTEREST.....WHO WAS HEROD ANTIPAS?

1. The time was about 44 A.D. Herod Agrippa I, appears only here in the N.T. Born about 10 B.C. to Aristobulus and Bernice, a grandson of Herod the Great (who killed the infants in Bethlehem (Mat. 2;16-18). A brother to Herodias, and a nephew of her husband(?) Herod the Tetrarch (Herodias requested through her daughter Salome, for the head of John the Immerser, and Herod the Tetrarch so ordered it.) Had been made governor by the emperor Claudius in 41 A.D. Was attempting to please the Jews to solidify his position.
 2. “Put forth his hand to ill treat some of the church”
 3. Saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also...intending after (Easter) Passover to bring him forth to the people” (12:4).
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Page 2

PETER'S DELIVERANCE

A. GIVE ACCOUNT OF THE STORY!

1. Question: Why did God free Peter...after James had been killed?
2. Was it because he planned a great public show.
3. This was the time (Passover, when the largest number of Jews would have been in Jerusalem.

B. HEROD AGRIPPA'S DEATH;

1. "On a set day" Arrayed in rolled silk (or silver tissue) .
 2. Sat where the sun would strike him and make him shine for the people.
 3. "Gave not the glory to God.
 4. History (JOSEPHUS) tells of his terrible death.
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

A. *"But prayer was made earnestly of the church unto God for him"* (Peter, v. 5).

1. How long did they pray. How long was Peter in jail. (Don't know)
2. For what did they pray?
 - a. His deliverance
 - b. That he be strong
 - c. Be faithful unto death....

B. PRAYER ANSWERED

1. Even more than what they expected.
 2. Peter freed and at the door.
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GREW AND MULTIPLIED

A. *"But the word of God grew and multiplied"* v. 24.

1. Again we would probably give a lot of details as to how it was accomplished.
2. It does seem obvious that with every persecution the church responded by growth.

B. PUT JAMES TO DEATH....THE CHURCH PRAYED....AND THE WORD OF GOD GREW AND MULTIPLIED.

CONCLUSION
