

Pretend Kings & Temporary Thrones

The Book of Acts
Midweek Sermon
Pastor Carl Toti
July 7, 2021

Kings have no friends. A king only has followers and foes.
—John Falstaff

Acts 25:13-27 (NLT)

13 A few days later King Agrippa arrived with his sister, Bernice, to pay their respects to Festus. 14 During their stay of several days, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. "There is a prisoner here," he told him, "whose case was left for me by Felix. 15 When I was in Jerusalem, the leading priests and Jewish elders pressed charges against him and asked me to condemn him. 16 I pointed out to them that Roman law does not convict people without a trial. They must be given an opportunity to confront their accusers and defend themselves. 17 "When his accusers came here for the trial, I didn't delay. I called the case the very next day and ordered Paul brought in. 18 But the accusations made against him weren't any of the crimes I expected. 19 Instead, it was something about their religion and a dead man named Jesus, who Paul insists is alive. 20 I was at a loss to know how to investigate these things, so I asked him whether he would be willing to stand trial on these charges in Jerusalem. 21 But Paul appealed to have his case decided by the emperor. So I ordered that he be held in custody until I could arrange to send him to Caesar." 22 "I'd like to hear the man myself," Agrippa said. And Festus replied, "You will—tomorrow!" 23 So the next day Agrippa and Bernice arrived at the auditorium with great pomp, accompanied by military officers and prominent men of the city. Festus ordered that Paul be brought in. 24 Then Festus said, "King Agrippa and all who are here, this is the man whose death is demanded by all the Jews, both here and in Jerusalem. 25 But in my opinion he has done nothing deserving death. However, since he appealed his case to the emperor, I have decided to send him to Rome. 26 "But what shall I write the emperor? For there is no clear charge against him. So I have brought him before all of you, and especially you, King Agrippa, so that after we examine him, I might have something to write. 27 For it makes no sense to send a prisoner to the emperor without specifying the charges against him!"

Luke 21:12–15 (NIV)

12 "But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 This will result in your being witnesses to them. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Revelation 2:10 (NIV)

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

WHEN YOU ARE IN A BATTLE FOR YOUR FAITH, REMEMBER THREE THINGS

GOD _____

Daniel 4:17 (NKJV)

17 'This decision is by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.'

HIS WORD _____

1 Peter 1:25 (NKJV)

25 But the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Isaiah 40:8 (BBE)

8 The grass is dry, the flower is dead; but the word of our God is eternal.

Romans 3:4 (NIV)

4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."

DON'T _____ OUT

Matthew 24:12-13 (NLT)

12 Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

ANSWERS:

- 1. RULES**
- 2. ENDURES**
- 3. SELL**