



## BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1733 ~ Herod Exalted, Dies.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

In the years that followed Noah's flood, his descendants raised families and became nations. One of the most important things each generation needed to give the next generation coming up was to teach them the knowledge and ways of their Creator God.

The Bible is clear that the knowledge of God is the most valuable knowledge a human being can possess. But it is also clear that one simply being aware of God's existence is not enough; the knowledge of God must include a deep gratitude and close relationship with Him.

Human knowledge, apart from God, has defects. In 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, it says that knowledge and faith without love are worthless. The knowledge a person possesses tends to make one proud. In Chapter 8, it says: "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." Therefore, the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake, without seeking God, is foolishness.

The cultures of those nations that didn't retain knowledge of God in their minds and lives made up fiction stories to explain things like creation. These myths and legends were handed down instead of a true knowledge of God. The characters in the fiction stories were sometimes referred to as gods and goddesses, and some of them were said to have done very nasty things. People grew fearful of the characters in these stories and believed them to be real. The widest known myths were the Greek and Roman ones, because they had a period of ruling to the then known world.

The Roman emperors had a number of titles, one of which was 'Caesar', yet many refused the title of 'king'. They ruled from 27 BC to 476 AD and some emperors were given divine status after their death. Others demanded to be worshipped as a god in their own lifetime. This was where Christianity and the rule of Rome came into sharp disagreement. Christians were convinced of the truth in Isaiah, Chapter 45, where God declares of Himself: "I am God, and there is no other." So the Christians refused to say the emperor was a god and very often for this, they paid with their lives.

In today's *Bible Adventure* drama, King Herod had been humiliated in front of the people of Jerusalem when the Apostle Peter somehow vanished from his locked and guarded prison cell a second time.

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DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

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Herod was very upset about not finding Peter. Herod ordered all of Peter's guards to be put to death. Then he left Jerusalem and went to Caesarea on the Mediterranean coast to live.

Tyre and Sidon were two large cities in present-day Lebanon that were located on the Mediterranean coast. The residents of these cities received most of their food supplies from the province of Galilee, which was ruled by Herod. For some reason we don't know, Herod had become displeased with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and the people were afraid that when angry, Herod might decide to cut off their food supply. So in an effort to make peace, they asked one of Herod's servants to arrange for them to meet with the king.

On the day of the meeting, Herod delivered a speech to the people present from those cities. In response, the people tried to please and flatter Herod by calling him a god. But because Herod didn't give this praise to the true God in heaven, one of God's angels struck him down right there and killed him. Herod had exalted himself on earth but in the end, he lost everything.

Of the 66 books in the Bible, one that is less-read by Christians is the book of Ecclesiastes. This book was written by King Solomon toward the end of his life. He came to realise that without God in his life, he was empty and meaningless.

Solomon finished Ecclesiastes by thinking about his death and concluded by saying: "Have reverence for God and obey His commands ... God is going to judge everything we do, whether good or bad, even things done in secret."

The New Testament starts with the four Gospels telling us of Jesus, the Saviour of the world coming to be God's remedy for the sin debt incurred by all people who did and will put their trust in Him. In Romans, Chapter 5, it says: "God has shown us how much He loves us; for it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" And in the next chapter, it says: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

All people who accept God's gift of salvation through Jesus confess their wrongdoing and ask God for forgiveness. Those who do this sincerely accept that Jesus has redeemed their life from hell by His dying on their behalf; such people are now born of God's Holy Spirit and belong to Him for ever and ever. How grateful each new Christian should be! But this new position in Christ is not just a one-off event.

The new Christian must then learn to walk in a newness of life and respond to how much God loves them day-by-day. The former ways of living must be transformed to living God's way through the Holy Spirit. The Christian does this by often talking to God in prayer, studying the Bible to know the inspired words of the Lord written in there; and going to meet with other Christians for guidance, accountability and fellowship.

When a new Christian moves from Satan's domain to belong to the family of God, Satan isn't pleased at all. Trials and tests may come from many sources and directions. Family and friends put pressure on the new faith to see if the new Christian will stay true to the Lord. At times, even experienced Christians fall into sin.

However, as soon as they realise what they've done wrong, they beg forgiveness and they look for reconciliation with Christ quickly.

Part of Christian maturity is increasing in the knowledge of God and something all true Christians are to experience. The Apostle Peter said in 2 Peter, Chapter 3: "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever." Christians grow in an assurance that we are in fellowship with God by our love for God and for others.

The commandments of Jesus are not the Mosaic laws listed in the Old Testament, but the instructions given in the New Testament by both the Lord Jesus and His apostles. These rules and principles for godly behaviour should be regarded by Christians as being precious and be passed down to the next generation.

Some people say that they are Christians but their lifestyles show they are still living in the world's ways. There are some tests for any Christian to apply to their lives to see if they really are living God's way. These are listed in 1 John, Chapter 2, and explain what it means to know God and be in true fellowship with Him.

"If we say that we know Him, but do not obey his commands, we are liars and there is no truth in us." Knowledge of the Lord Jesus must be woven into every aspect of a believer's daily existence. Otherwise, any claim to know God is not truthful.

Obedience to God's will results in experiencing God's love and spiritual blessing. The display of this love in a Christian's life will be seen by others and become a witness to them. God's love in us gives us an inner assurance that we live in Him and for Him.

Believers who consistently obey God's Word remain in an ongoing fellowship with Christ and they find the Holy Spirit patterning their lives after His. Christ loved and obeyed God the Father; He also loved righteousness and hated sin, while loving us the sinners. Christians are sometimes tested to show how loving they are.

But what does the Bible say about those Christians who are without love? Verses 9 and 10 in 1 John, Chapter 2, indicate: "If we say that we are in the light, yet hate others, we are in the darkness to this very hour. If we love others, we live in the light, and there is nothing in us that will cause someone else to sin." Those who hate a fellow Christian cannot be a true disciple and follower of Christ, for the Lord Jesus taught believers to love even their enemies.

'Hatred' for a brother in Christ doesn't refer to an occasional outburst but to an ongoing, deep-seated malice that is expressed persistently toward followers of Christ. Those people who do this should realise the wrong that they are doing and come as individuals in repentance to Christ. Lacking God's love and light results in being cut off from God's fellowship. Those who are aware of their malice toward someone else but don't do anything about it, will over time, be taken over completely by darkness from that sin. As a result, they have no knowledge of where they're going and no true relationship with God.

People who say that they are Christians should examine their lives to make sure they are really growing in Christ and knowing God's principles for living His way. This is most important for those who are involved in evangelism. Evangelism isn't just what we tell people, it's also how we act consistently with what we tell them. It is our example of Christ to others that's going to make the difference in other people's minds.

If we don't truly enjoy our faith and take hold of the joy and promises of the Lord, nobody else is going to catch the fire of enjoyment from us either. If our lives are not totally centred on Christ, we won't be Christ-bearers for others, no matter how pious our words are. We must live a Christ-centred life before we're able to be an instrument to win others for Him.

In 1 John, Chapter 3, Verse 14, it says: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren."

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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