

41 AD – CHURCH GROWS IN ANTIOCH: JAMES IS MARTYRED

“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.” (Isaiah 2 v 10)

EVENTS IN 41 AD

Peter preached to **Cornelius** in **40 AD**. (See our paper on [40 AD](#)). Soon thereafter, the church in Jerusalem sent **Barnabus** to assist the growing church in **Antioch**: ‘...the church which was in Jerusalem: they sent forth **Barnabas** that he should go as far as **Antioch**. Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.’ (Acts 11:19-24)

In **41 AD** **Barnabus** went to get **Paul** from Tarsus and they worked together in **Antioch** helping the church: ‘Then departed **Barnabas** to Tarsus, for to seek **Saul**: And when he had found him, he brought him unto **Antioch**. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in **Antioch**.’ (Acts 11:25-26)

The same year, **James** the brother of **John** was martyred: ‘Now about that time **Herod** the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed **James** the brother of **John** with the sword.’ (Acts 12:1-2)

PROPHECY OF ISAIAH 2 V 10

“Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.” (Isaiah 2 v 10)

James the Elder is not credited with miracles. In fact he wanted to call fire down on a Samaritan town. In addition to being hot tempered he also possessed a loud voice – called a ‘son of thunder’ by **Jesus**. **James** was one of the first disciples to follow **Jesus**. He became one of the three disciples closest to **Jesus**. **Peter**, **James**, and **John** were the only ones chosen to witness the transfiguration.

James was the first of the apostles to be martyred. We suppose he was chosen by **King Herod** because his loud prophetic warnings were the greatest irritation to the Jews in the Temple.

James and **John** came to Jesus and asked to sit at his right hand and at his left hand in glory. Jesus said '**You don't know what you are asking**' Jesus said. '**Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptised with the baptism I am baptized with?**' '**We can.**' They answered. **Jesus** said to them '**You will drink the cup I drink and be baptised with the baptism I am baptized with**'.

So **Jesus** predicted **James** would be martyred. Hence the event is recorded in the Book of Acts – to prove the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy.

James was slain by the sword, but he did not die, he slept. "**Enter into the rock**" of his salvation he went: was "**hide thee in the dust**" by the **LORD**. It was "**for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty**" that **James** could not hold his tongue but testified of **Christ** loudly before evil men.

SPIRITUAL NUMBER ANALYSIS

For a mind that has wisdom please read on. See truth from another perspective.

PART ONE

Chapter **2** of Isaiah is the **2nd** chapter of The Prophets.

The spiritual number **2** means 'Division' or 'Discern'

Evil never wins. **King Herod** kills an apostle and the church in Jerusalem cowers in the sight of another Herodian tyrant in close alliance with the enemies of the Christian faith. Elsewhere, in another land, in another country, the church in **Antioch** is growing by leaps. **James the Elder** is lost as an apostle, but **Paul** appears and his apostolic ministry begins in a public way.

PART TWO

Isaiah **2 v 10** is the **17,696th** verse in the whole Bible starting at Gen **1 v 1**.

The number **17,696 = 79 x 224**

The spiritual meaning of **79** is 'Martyr'

The spiritual meaning of **224** is 'Cold Blooded'

The spiritual numbers tell us there will be a 'Cold Blooded' murder of a 'Martyr'. Spot on.

PART THREE

Isaiah **2 v 10** is the **41st** verse of The Prophets starting at Isaiah **1 v 1**.

The spiritual meaning of **41** is 'Man's Rules'

King Herod wanted to give support to the Sadducees – so he commanded a leader of the Christian movement be killed. Think of the utter wrongheadedness of such a crime. To kill an innocent man is unjustifiable. If his loud proclamation is disturbing the peace – put him in prison perhaps, or banish him from the premises.

Murder was done to John the Baptist. Murder was done to Jesus.

Martyrs don't stop followers from believing – if anything martyrs fuel religious fervor.

Killing an innocent man only betrays one's own barbarity – and supports the opposition cause.

But this simply illustrates how all the rules which men make apart from the Divine Law of God in Scripture – are vain and faulty and foolish - often with deadly consequences.

APPLICATION

Dear believers.

Pay attention to the Spirit.

God was at work in Antioch. What were the apostles doing in Jerusalem? James was loudly proclaiming the truth – but to antagonist enemies whose minds were hardened.

Was it because James wanted so badly to sit at the LORD's right or left hand in glory that he stuck around Jerusalem thinking if he kept close proximity to the place where Christ was going to return he had a better chance?

This stubbornness of the apostles staying in Jerusalem when all the Christians had already left there and scattered after the stoning of Stephen tells us they may have been apostles but they weren't listening to the Spirit and following where the Spirit was leading.

Paul and Barnabus were doing that. Instead of losing their life to prove nothing they were spending their valuable life to build up the faith in new believers.