

## *Doctrine of Herod*

1. The dynasty of Herod was a family of Idumaeen Jews who ruled various regions in Palestine as client kings or governors from 37 B.C. to A.D. 70.

1.1 Idumea in eschatology

1.2 Events in the middle of the Tribulation

2. Herod the Great, Herod Antipas, Herod Agrippa and Herod Agrippa II figure prominently in the Bible. Two other play lesser roles: Herod Archelaus and Herod Philip.

3. Herod the Great ordered the murder of the infants at the time of Christ's birth, and the latter Herod Antipas was involved in the trial of Jesus and the execution of John the Baptist. Herod Agrippa I was also of significance in that he ordered the death of James the brother of John and had Peter imprisoned. Agrippa II was the Herod of Acts Chapters 25 and 26 who listened to Paul before sending him to Rome.

3.1 Herod Archelaus was the successor of Herod the Great and thus the ruler who caused Mary and Joseph to detour around Bethlehem Judea. Herod Philip ruled Iturea and Trachonitis probably from Caesarea Philippi. Philip was also married to Herodias and the father of Salome.

4. Little known facts about the Herod "family:"

4.1. Josephus wrote that the Herods were Edomites, but Nicolaus of Damascus, a first century historian, says they returned from exile with other Jews (possibly a story invented to please Herod).

4.2 Antipater (the grandfather of Herod the Great) first gained power in Idumea. Later by fomenting divisions between Hyrcanus, the high priest--a Maccabee and his brother Aristobulus. He later acquired control of the province of Judah.

5. Now let's review each Herod individually, noting their biblical significance.

5.1 **Herod the Great** ruled from 37 to 4 B.C.

- His Biblical claim to infamy was his order to slaughter the infants in an effort to murder Jesus. He was fearful of a "rival King." Mat 2:1-8; 16-19

Mat 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Mat 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Mat 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Mat 2:4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

Mat 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Mat 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Mat 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Mat 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

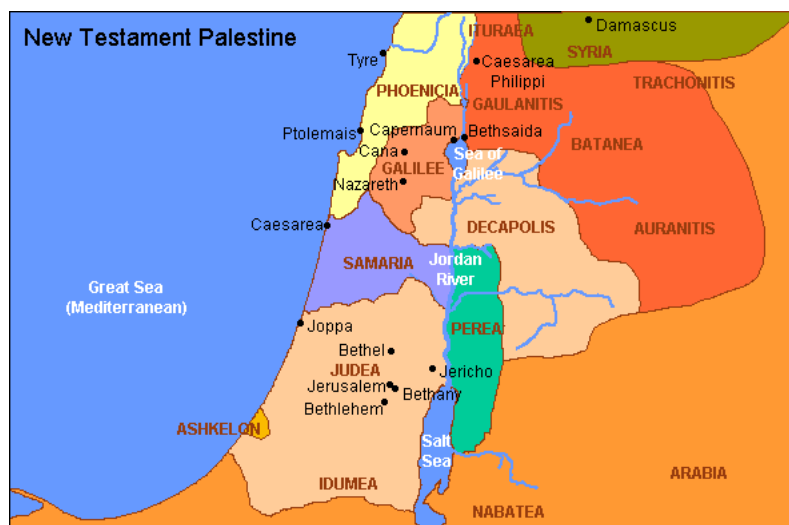
Mat 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

Mat 2:17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

Mat 2:18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Mat 2:19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

- Herod the Great's grandfather and father were governors of Idumaea which was a Province just south of Judea. They were both named Antipas.



- The two progenitors rose to power during the waning days of the Maccabees.
- The grandfather ruled Idumaea until his death.

- Julius Caesar made his adopted son Antipater (the grandfather of Herod the Great) Procurator of Idumaea in 47 B.C.
- Mark Antony, when he was a member of the Triumvirate ruling Rome after the death of Julius Caesar, appointed Herod the Great as Tetrarch of Galilee in 37 B.C.
- Herod the Great parlayed these appointments into even more prestigious positions. He was soon appointed Procurator of Judea.
- Herod the Great became monarch of Judea ruling from Jerusalem until he died in 4 B.C.
- He was an imperious King and capable general; he promoted Hellenism among the Jews and appointed High Priests who were sycophants.
- He founded the city of Caesarea Judea and rebuilt Jerusalem including a modification of the Temple (Herod's Temple).
- Herod the Great was only 25 when he began to rule and soon won great popularity because he proved to be an excellent administrator.
- His usurpation of Jewish prerogatives resulted in his being summoned before the Sanhedrin; he appeared robed in purple, with a strong guard of soldiers. This show of force resulted in his not being sentenced.
- Herod went to Rome where he was given support from the Senate. It was here he made clear he supported Octavius and thus was confirmed as procurator. Herod returned to Judaea where he gained the favor of the Jews by his remodeling of the Temple.
- He sponsored frequent public games and feasts at his own expense. He also gave costly presents to Caesar.
- He is said to have fabricated the genealogies of the Jewish priestly families. This allowed him to appoint "priestly sinecures."
- The close of his career was stained with many cruel and barbarous crimes. His wives and children plotted against each other (He had 10 wives, two of whom were his own nieces. He had three sons and two wives murdered.
- In the midst of these family troubles and seditions, he was seized with a terrible disorder in the bowels and unsuccessfully tried to kill himself.
- At the death of Herod the Great Augustus divided the Kingdom among his three remaining sons—Archelaus (NW), Philip (N) and Herod Antipas (Judea).

## 5.2 **Herod Archelaus** ruled Judea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 6

- His Biblical claim to infamy was his ruthless and cruel style of rule which caused Mary and Joseph to detour around his Kingdom on their trip to Nazareth from Egypt.
- Mat 2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
- Herod Archelaus was educated in Rome where he was well known.
- Augustus gave him Idumea, Judaea, Samaria, Caesarea, Joppa and Jerusalem with the title of Ethnarch.
- He broke the Mosaic law by marrying his brother's widow, Glaphyra and was denounced by his subjects. Turmoil developed within his kingdoms.
- He appealed to Caesar, and was banished to Vienna, in Gaul, where he died (A.D. 39).

## 5.3 **Herod Antipas** ruled Galilee and Perea from 6 to A.D. 37

- His Biblical claim to infamy was his murder of John the Baptist and his participation in the trial of our Lord. Mat 14:3-11; Luk 23:6-15

Mat 14:3 For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Mat 14:4 For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

Mat 14:5 And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

Mat 14:6 But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of Herodias danced before them, and pleased Herod.

Mat 14:7 Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

Mat 14:8 And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, Give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

Mat 14:9 And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.

Mat 14:10 And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison.

Mat 14:11 And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.

Luk 23:6 When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean.

Luk 23:7 And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

Luk 23:8 And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him.

Luk 23:9 Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

Luk 23:10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

Luk 23:11 And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

Luk 23:12 And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

Luk 23:13 And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

Luk 23:14 Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

Luk 23:15 No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

- Herod Antipas had been destined as his father's successor, but was appointed only tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea.
- He divorced his wife (a daughter of Aretas, king of Arabia) to marry Herodias, previously the wife of his brother Philip. As a result he suffered the ire of John the Baptist. It was Herodias and her daughter Salome who instigated the killing of John the Baptist.
- Aretas invaded Herod's territory and defeated him. Antipas went to Rome to complain and at the suggestion of Herodias he asked for the title of king.
- He was opposed by several powerful friends of Agrippa, and was banished to Lugdununi, A.D. 39, where he died.
- The Herodians were returned as Procurators in A.D. 34 when Caligula appointed his old friend Herod Agrippa.

#### 5.4 **Herod Agrippa I** ruled Judah from 41 to 44 A.D.

- His Biblical claim to infamy was his execution of James the Brother of John and the incarceration of Peter.

Acts 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

Acts 12:2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

Acts 12:3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

Acts 12:4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

Acts 12:18 Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter.

Acts 12:19 And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode.

Acts 12:20 And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country.

- Agrippa I or Herod Agrippa as he was known best was the son of Aristobulus, one of Herod the Great's executed sons.
- Agrippa was a court favorite of Caligula and Claudius in Rome.
- Herod Agrippa was educated in Rome with Claudius and Drusus, where Tiberius imprisoned him for an unguarded speech.
- Caligula, the succeeding emperor, liberated him and made him tetrarch of Galilee and Perea.
- Herod Antipas and Herodias tried in vain to have him deposed.
- Agrippa rendered important service to Claudius and as a result had his dominions enlarged by Samaria and Judaea.
- His hegemony equaled that of Herod the Great.
- He was a strict keeper of the Mosaic Law (as he saw it) and therefore was respected by most Jews.
- In the fourth year of his rule over Judea he attended an athletic contest and was saluted as a god. It was there he was seized with an illness and died five days later (eaten of worms).

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

Acts 12:22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

Acts 12:23 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.

5.5. **Herod Agrippa II** ruled from 44 to 70 A.D.

- His biblical claim to infamy was his hearing the Apostle Paul preach along with the beautiful Berenice and Festus.

Acts 25:1 Three days after arriving in the province, Festus went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem,

Acts 25:2 where the chief priests and Jewish leaders appeared before him and presented the charges against Paul.

Acts 25:3 They urgently requested Festus, as a favor to them, to have Paul transferred to Jerusalem, for they were preparing an ambush to kill him along the way.

Acts 25:4 Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon.

Acts 25:5 Let some of your leaders come with me and press charges against the man there, if he has done anything wrong."

Acts 25:6 After spending eight or ten days with them, he went down to Caesarea, and the next day he convened the court and ordered that Paul be brought before him....

Acts 25:9 Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, "Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem and stand trial before me there on these charges?"

Acts 25:10 Paul answered: "I am now standing before Caesar's court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well..."

Acts 25:12 After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

Acts 25:13 A few days later King Agrippa and Berenice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus.

Acts 25:14 Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner..."

Acts 25:22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself." He replied, "Tomorrow you will hear him."

Acts 25:23 The next day Agrippa II and Berenice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high ranking officers and the leading men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

Acts 25:24 Festus said: "King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer.

Acts 25:25 I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome.

Acts 25:26 But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write.

Acts 25:27 For I think it is unreasonable to send on a prisoner without specifying the charges against him."

Acts 26:1 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense:

Acts 26:2 "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews,

Acts 26:3 and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently..."

Acts 26:6 And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our fathers that I am on trial today...

Acts 26:8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead...

Acts 26:19 "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

Acts 26:20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Acts 26:21 That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.

Acts 26:22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen--

Acts 26:23 that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

Acts 26:25 "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable.

Acts 26:26 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.

Acts 26:27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

Acts 26:29 Paul replied, "Short time or long--I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

Acts 26:30 The king rose, and with him the governor and Berenice and those sitting with them.

Acts 26:31 They left the room, and while talking with one another, they said, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."

Acts 26:32 Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar..."

- Herod Agrippa II was educated at Rome and only 17 at his father's death.
- His first appointment was the kingdom of Lysanias, with the title of king.
- Nero added several cities to his realm. He built many splendid public buildings in Jerusalem.
- Juvenal in his satires made mockery of his incestuous relationship with his sister Berenice.
- He was almost convinced of the authenticity of Christ's claim of Messiahship after listening to the Apostle Paul.
- He died at Rome in the third year of Trajan, A.D. 100, the last of the Herods.



6. Now let's return to our analysis of Mark chapter six.

7. We are going to see intrigue, machination, paranoia, guilt reaction, and sin. We are given an example of how man deals with a problem apart from dependence upon the truth of God.

8. As we try to better understand the attitude of King Herod we must keep in mind the disciples were calling for repentance and performing many miracles.

9. Now for an expanded translation of Mar 6:14

### **Expanded Translation**

**Mar 6:14 And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these miraculous powers are at work in this man named Jesus.**

1. As the report of the power and miracles of our Lord became known there was speculation as to who he was. This report of what people were saying shows us there really is nothing new about the "doubting Thomas of our day."

2. The doubters of Jesus' day would rather believe Jesus is the reincarnation of Elijah than believe that Jesus is the Christ.

### KJV-New Sentence

Mar 6:15 Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.

### NIV

Mar 6:15 Others said, "He is Elijah." And still others claimed, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of long ago."

1. Prevalent in the minds of the Jews of Jesus' day as well as orthodox Jews today is the understanding (and rightfully so) that Elijah must come first before the Messiah.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

Mal 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

2. One of the two witnesses of Revelation chapter eleven will be Elijah.

Rev 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Rev 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Rev 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Rev 11:11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Rev 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

3. Had Israel accepted Christ as their Messiah John the Baptist would have been Elijah. Wycliffe in his Encyclopedia writes: "Jesus declared him to be the promised Elijah of (Mal 4:5-6, Mar 9:13; Mat 11:14; cf. Luk 1:17)

Mar 9:13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

Mat 11:13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.

Mat 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.

Luk 1:13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

Luk 1:14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

Luk 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Luk 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

Luk 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to their fathers.

