

Herod the Great and His Line

Written and compiled by Gary Kukis

These studies are designed for believers in Jesus Christ only. If you have exercised faith in Christ, then you are in the right place. If you have not, then you need to heed the words of our Lord, Who said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son, so that every [one] believing [or, trusting] in Him shall not perish, but shall be have eternal life! For God did not send His Son into the world so that He should judge the world, but so that the world shall be saved through Him. The one believing [or, trusting] in Him is not judged, but the one not believing has already been judged, because he has not believed in the Name of the only-begotten [or, uniquely-born] Son of God.” (John 3:16–18). “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life! No one comes to the Father except through [or, by means of] Me!” (John 14:6).

Every study of the Word of God ought to be preceded by a naming of your sins to God. This restores you to fellowship with God (1John 1:8–10). If we acknowledge our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1John 1:9). If there are people around, you would name these sins silently. If there is no one around, then it does not matter if you name them silently or whether you speak aloud.

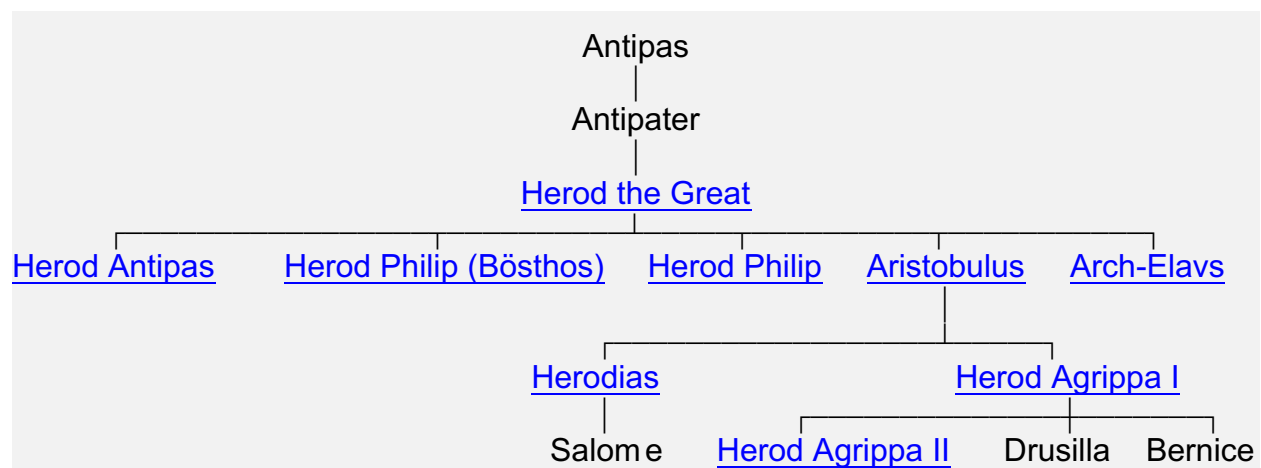
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Preface: This is a collection of work which I have done on Herod and his family

Introduction: When I first became a believer, I read through the gospels and, like most people, saw the name Herod several times and gave no thought to it. There are actually 5 different Herod's in Scripture, and a number of relatives of Herod the Great who figure into the isagogics of New Testament Scripture; therefore, it may be helpful to be able to sort through these different Herod's, as well as their wives and children.

The family of Herod originated from Edom (also known as Idumæa in the Greek) which ruled over Palestine from 46 B.C. to approximately 100 A.D. Prior to this, they had been forcibly converted to Judaism (around 125 B.C.). They are known for founding several cities and improving existing cities.

Prior to Herod, and, I think in his line (I am unsure about this), we have Antipas, who was appointed by the Romans as governor of Idumea and died in 78 B.C. His son (I believe) is Antipater. He was appointed the Procurator of Judea 47–43 B.C. by Julius Cæsar. Antipater's son, I believe, is Herod, who had 5 sons, giving us...



This was taken from Luke 1 ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)).

The History of Herod the Great

Translation: *It came about in the days of Herod, the king of Judæa,...*

This would have been Herod of Herod's Temple (there are 4 men called Herod in the New Testament). This is the man who decided to kill all of the young male Jewish children, which would cause Mary and Joseph to leave Judæa.

Luke 1:5a *In the days of Herod, king of Judea,...*

Before 586 B.C., Judah (the southern kingdom) was independently ruled by Jewish kings, descendants of David. But when Judah was invaded by Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon, that ended the independence of Israel. The Jewish people were eventually returned to the land—70 years later—but they were no longer an autonomous nation.

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At least twice in the Lord's biography, Luke will set the secular historical stage for the events of His life.

There are about 6 different Herod's in history (all related) and as many as 5 of them are found in the Bible. The Herod of v. 5 is the *big dog*, so to speak, known as Herod the Great. The other Herod's are his sons and grandsons.

His life is a fascinating study. He rules over the Jews as a part of the Roman empire, although he is from Edom where his family was forcibly converted to Judaism. This makes Herod a Jew by religion, but he is not accepted as truly Jewish by the Hebrew people.

Edom, if you will recall, is at the southern tip of the Dead Sea, a region founded by Esau, Jacob's twin brother (recall that Jacob was a Jew and Esau was not; and that Esau was often a nicer person than Jacob).

Herod ruled over Palestine between 37–4 B.C., and actually did what he could to try to make things work with the Jews in Judah. He apparently built the Temple of Judea with his own money, where the Jews worshiped, yet they do not appear to give Herod any credit for this.

I have studied a variety of opinions on the Temple, and I have heard, over and over again, that the Temple was built twice: first by Solomon and then by Zerubbabel. I cannot tell you in how many places I have read about these two Temples. But Herod either built or fixed up the 2nd Temple; but it seems like Jewish historians refuse to give him any credit for this.

At the end of his life, Herod apparently suffered from mental problems (it is suggested that his body was riddled with venereal diseases), and the Herod whom most Christians view as a great villain (which he was at the end of his life) is not necessarily representative of Herod's entire life. However, as you may understand, there are things that you can do in your life—sometimes just one volitional choice—and you will be forever defined by that choice. I am not an apologist for Herod the Great; but it is important that you realize that there was more to him what we find in the Word of God.

For instance, we have had presidents in the past who are known for *Tear Down this wall*; one who admitted having lust in his heart, one who said, "Read my lips, no new taxes;" one who said, "The American people have a right to know if their president is a crook, and I am not a crook;" and one who said, "I did not have sex with that woman." For people who lived through those years, you know exactly who these presidents are (you may differ with me on what defined those men as president); but my point is, it can be a single quote, and that quote might be how almost everyone remembers the man. For some of you, those quotes virtually define the way that you remember that particular president—despite the fact that each of those presidents had a myriad of successes and

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failures, good and bad choices, which they made while in the oval office. The more you know about Richard Nixon, the more you might be angry about him being remembered for saying, "I am not a crook!" He was a very accomplished president, as were the others suggested (again, many of them had failures and successes throughout their lives). It should be obvious that the lives and presidency of these men can be dramatically colored by the quotes or incidents which I have suggested; whereas, the truth about their lives is far more complex.

The same is true of Herod. On the one hand, he will desire to kill Jesus as an infant, believing that this infant will take from Herod his kingdom. As a result of this paranoia, Herod will kill hundreds if not thousands of infants, hoping to protect his kingdom (by that time, he is protecting his kingdom for his sons). What man, outside of a monster, could do such a thing?

However, earlier in his reign, Herod built/rebuilt the Temple for his people the Jews. He did not have to do that. He did not have to commit men and materials and time to such a massive project like that. He could have taken these same resources and made his own palace bigger and better. He could have told the Jewish people, "If you want to improve your Temple, then do it yourselves!" In fact, their opinion of him would like have not been any different.

It might be instructive to know a little about the history of Judæa at this time and how Herod the Great became ruler. Herod was born an Idumæan, which was an Arab group of people who were descendants of Esau, living in Edom, south of Judæa. However, not too long before Herod was born, the Hasmonæans, the nationalist party of the Jews, had conquered Idumæa and they made them all Jews—the males were circumcised, they were to follow Jewish customs and laws. So, Herod was brought up by religion a Jew. However, he was also the son of one of the smartest and wealthiest Idumæans, Antipater II. But, genetically speaking, Herod was descended from the wrong brother. Since he was descended from Esau, racially Herod was an Arab; had he been descended from Esau's twin brother Jacob, then Herod would have been Jewish by religion and by blood. Consequently, Herod would grow up conflicted; just as the Jews would have been conflicted about this group of Arabs.

Around 48 B.C., Julius Cæsar finds himself in Egypt, with too small an army, in somewhat of a jam. Herod, at 26 years old, raises an army and gets Cæsar and his small army safely out of Egypt, getting him out of this jam. Initially, it seemed like a smart move to be the friend of Julius Cæsar.

There continued to be civil unrest in the Rome (Cæsar was assassinated in 44 B.C.); while there was also civil unrest in Palestine. It appears that the family of Herod was in opposition to the Hasmonæans. Since Herod backing Cæsar did not work out well (given that Cæsar was assassinated), Herod financially backed Cassius, who allied himself with Brutus, and they fought against Octavius the grand nephew of Julius Cæsar

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(he adopted Octavius as his son), and Mark Anthony. Again, Herod had backed the wrong man. Roman leadership would fall to Octavius and Mark Anthony and not to Cassius or Brutus.

Despite backing the wrong man, Herod went boldly to Rome and spoke directly to Octavius, and said that he was a friend of Cassius and also a friend to the Roman empire; and he hoped to continue this friendship. Mark Anthony actually knew Herod as a youth and liked him. So Herod returned to Palestine, having solidified a friendship with Octavius and renewed his friendship with Mark Anthony. As a result, Herod again was a friend of the Roman empire (which was very important to his continued rulership of Palestine).

When Herod's returned to Palestine, another revolt broke out with the Hasmonæans, and Herod tried to fix this by marrying the last Hasmonæan woman, Mariamne. Herod is said to have made two great mistakes at this time: (1) he married Mariamne and (2) he fell in love with her. She apparently did not feel the same way, and she betrayed him.

You have no doubt heard of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, but Herod was in that mix as well. Anthony gave some of Herod's land to Cleopatra, Herod balked, and he got some of his land back. Furthermore, when Cleopatra tried to seduce Herod, he turned her down and she apparently hated him for it.

In case you do any independent reading on Herod, there is another Cleopatra in his life; different from the Queen of Egypt previously mentioned.

Anyway, soon after Cleopatra decided that she hated Herod, Octavius and Mark Anthony were at war with each other, and again, Herod backed the wrong horse. He helped Anthony raise money for his defense, but Octavius defeated Anthony and Cleopatra.

Again, Herod goes to Rome; he speaks directly to Octavius, and tells him exactly what he did. Octavius respected his honesty and his pledge of loyalty; and allowed Herod to continue as king over the Jews. In fact, Octavius is said to have two great friends in the world at this time: Agrippa, who handled all of the administration, and Herod.

Over and over again, Herod fought to maintain control over his kingdom in Palestine; and he managed to continue in this position, despite all of the unrest around him and despite backing the wrong man over and over again.

What made Herod quite valuable to Rome is, he established law and order throughout most of his land, despite the opposition of the Jews (they hated him because he was an Arab by race).

Not long before Jesus was born, Herod established peace and safety in the Galilean

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area, removing the bandits which plagued that area. As a result, Jesus was raised in an area where there was relative peace and safety—which apparently continued throughout His life—despite the great turmoil in the world. In the narratives of the gospels, Jesus moves about the land in relative safety, apart from the animosity of the Jewish religious class.

R. B. Thieme, Jr., based upon his extensive knowledge of ancient history, described some aspects of Herod's reign like this: *Herod never had a statue or a picture made and never had his face on coins, so there is no way of knowing what he looked like from the usual archaeological sources, simply for this reason: Herod knew that he would offend the Jews if an image was set up. He always catered to the Jews, to the nationalist party, and never did he allow his image to be on a coin or a statute to be put up, so our only descriptions come from people of the ancient world. He was tall, very handsome, athletic with a very strong body. He had great charm of address and he was one of the greatest conversationalists of the ancient world. He was a famous hunter and horseman and a championship wrestler. Being of Arab stock he had black hair and a golden skin, with brown eyes, a moulded nose and small ears. He was never worth less than \$50,000,000, except when he went bankrupt twice. He went bankrupt once feeding the Jews in a time of economic decline. He spent his whole fortune feeding the Jews by buying grain in Egypt, and they repaid him very shortly thereafter by revolting against him. This all goes to show that the monster Herod that we know wasn't the monster in his early life.*¹

Most of us know the famous names of Julius Cæsar, Cassius, Brutus, Octavius, Mark Antony, and Cleopatra (especially if you have read Shakespeare). Fewer people realize that Herod was right there in the midst of all of them, just as famous and probably far more consequential than some on that list. It is very likely that his refusal to put his visage on everything—in deference to the faith of the Jews—which kept him below the radar, historically speaking.

Herod the Great

Herod the Great (circa 62¹–4 B.C.) ruled over Palestine from 37–4 B.C. In my notes, I have that he was appointed by Mark Anthony as the Tetrarch of Galilee in 37 B.C. A Tetrarch,

¹ The World Book Encyclopedia lists this as 73 B.C. *The World Book Encyclopedia*; ©1983 by World Book, Inc.; Vol. 9, p. 198.

by the way, rules a fourth of a province and is often referred to as a king. He erected the Temple for the Jews, historically known as Herod's Temple (Matt. 2 Luke 1:5).

Herod managed to remain on friendly terms with the Roman emperors, which allowed him to remain as a ruler over Palestine for as long as he did (the Jews as a whole were very unhappy about Romans ruling over them, and many associated Herod more with the Romans than they did as a Jew like themselves).²

Herod the Great had 10 wives and a large number of children. I am unsure of the two Herod Philip's below.

Herod the Great is mentioned in Matt. 2 Luke 1:5. He is the Tetrarch of Galilee who sought to kill all of the children in order to kill the Messiah (Whom he apparently believed would displace him). Even though the idea of the modern Roman calendar was based upon the birth of Jesus Christ, it was flawed. Since Herod sought to kill off of the Jewish babies in order to kill the Christ child, this would mean that Jesus was born between 6–4 B.C.

I don't quite follow this, as the Temple of Herod would be found in Jerusalem, which is south of Galilee.

Herod's sons and their progeny:

- I. **Herod Antipas:** He is also known as *Antipas the Fox* and *Herod the Tetrarch*; and he is found in Matt. 14:1 Mark 6 Luke 3:1. He ruled as Tetrarch of Galilee and Peraea (which is smaller than, but roughly equivalent to Gad) from 4 B.C. to 39 A.D.

[Herodias](#) left [Herod Philip](#) to live with Herod Antipas as his wife instead. John the Baptizer had told him that it was unlawful for him to be married to his brother's wife (Herodias) and Herod Antipas seized John the Baptizer on behalf of Herodias (see Mark 6:17–18). Herod Antipas both feared and respected John the Baptizer, but, at the behest of his wife, he had John beheaded (see [Salome](#) below).

[Herodias](#) also persuaded him to request that the Roman emperor make him governor of Palestine. However, his nephew, [Herod Agrippa](#), make false accusations against him, and the Roman emperor banished him to Gaul (Herod Antipas died about a year later).

- II. **Herod Philip (Bösthos):** Herod Philip (Bösthos) is found in Matt. 14:3 Mark 6:17 Luke 3:19.

² The Edomites are first cousins to the Jews, and the Herod family had been converted to Judaism quite a bit earlier.

1. **Salome:** The daughter of Herodias and Herod Philip (not named in the New Testament, but called the daughter of Herodias) danced before Herod Antipas, her uncle. He offered her whatever she wanted, and she, an instructed by her mother, asked for the head of John the Baptizer. Matt. 14:6–11
- III. **Herod Philip II:** Herod Philip II was the Tetrarch of Ituræa and Trachonitis (territories east of the Jordan). We find him mentioned only in Luke 3:1.
- IV. **Aristobulus:** Aristobulus is not mentioned in the New Testament; he had a son and a daughter:
1. **Herodias:** Herodias first married her uncle [Herod Philip \(Bösthos\)](#) (they had a daughter, [Salome](#), called the daughter of Herodias) and later married his brother Antipas the Fox ([Herod Antipas](#)), one of her other uncles. She is the one who asked for the head of John the Baptizer. We find her mentioned in Matt. 14:1–14 and Mark 6.
 2. **Herod Agrippa I:** Herod Agrippa I (circa 10 B.C.–44 A.D.) is the grandson of [Herod the Great](#). He both killed the Apostle James and seized and imprisoned Peter. God killed Herod Agrippa I for these things. Acts 12:1, 6, 18–24
 - (1) Herod Agrippa II: Herod Agrippa II (circa 27–100 A.D.) was not made king of Palestine because he was only 17 when his father died. However, when his uncle died in 50 A.D., Emperor Claudius made him king of Chaleis, which is an area in Lebanon. Paul spoke to him and Testis, and Agrippa told Paul, “You have almost persuaded me to become a Christian.” He was convinced that Paul should have been free all along. We find him in Acts 25:13 26
 - (2) Drusilla: Drusilla is the wife of Felix (the governor of Judea—Acts 23–24) and she is mentioned in Acts 24:24.
 - (3) Bernice: Bernice is found in Acts 25:13 26:30. She is the sister of Herod Agrippa II and the wife of Fetus (who was the governor of Judea after Felix—Acts 25–26).
- V. **Archelaus:** He ruled after Herod in Judea in 4 B.C.; he is found in Matt. 2:22.

This was taken from Luke 1 ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#)).

The actual history of these men is far more complex than the summaries provided below.

The Herods of Scripture

1. Herod the Great was famous for his many building projects, including that of the Jewish Temple (it appears that he restored and greatly improved upon the second Temple, which had been originally built by Zerubbabel, who was the Achaemenid-appointed governor over Judæa). Herod was also famous for his attempt to kill his rival king, the Messiah of Jerusalem, by killing all of the male children born at the time that Jesus was born (Matt. 2).
2. Herod II, also called Herod Philip I, was married to Herodias, who later divorced Herod II and married Herod Antipas, Herod II's half brother. John the baptizer condemned that was wrong (Matt. 14:3–4).
 - 1) Herod the Great executed his 2 sons by his Hasmonean wife Mariamne, which left Herodias an orphaned minor. Herod then engaged her to Herod II, her half-uncle.
 - 2) The union of Herod II and Herodias produced a daughter, Salome.
 - 3) At one time, Herod II was considered to be the natural heir to Herod the Great. However, he lived as a private citizen in Rome with Herodias, and thus survived Herod the Great's deathbed purges.
3. One of Herod's sons is Herod Antipas (or Antipater), who was also know as Herod the tetrarch (Matthew 14:1; Luke 3:1). Tetrarch means that he governed a fourth part of the kingdom.
 - 1) He reigned over Galilee and Perea.
 - 2) He ruled over this area 4 B.C.–39 A.D., throughout nearly the entire human life of Jesus.
 - 3) Herod Antipas reluctantly executed John the baptizer (Matt. 14:1–12).
 - 4) Because Jesus was from Galilee, during His trials, He was sent to Herod Antipas, when Pilate was trying to extricate himself from making a decision regarding Jesus. Luke 23:1–12
4. Herod Archelaus (23 B.C.–18 A.D.) was ruler over Samaria, Judea, and Idumea (or, Edom) between 4 B.C. and 6 A.D.
 - 1) Mary and Joseph temporarily moved to Egypt to escape Herod the Great's attacks upon the newborn males in his realm. When Herod died, they returned from Egypt, but moved up to the Galilee area rather than to Judæa, having been warned in a dream about Herod Archelaus reigning in his father's stead. Matt. 2:19–23
 - 2) He was given the title *Ethnarch* from Cæsar, which means that he was a non-king who ruled over an ethnic group (this would have limited his authority; apparently, he could not have people executed).
 - 3) He was deposed from his reign in A.D. 6, as a result of the Jewish people petitioning Cæsar Augustus for his removal. There was a great deal of animosity between the Jews and Herod Archelaus, which went both ways (near the end of his reign, Archelaus killed 3000 people at the Temple).
 - 4) There were 16 or 17 Roman administrators (governors) who followed

The Herods of Scripture

- Herod Archelaus until the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- 5) Herod Archelaus, although not officially recognized as governor of Judæa, Samaria and Idumea, his 10 year reign was among the top 3 reigns with regards to length of time over a period of 135 years.
 - 6) Pontius Pilate was the Roman prefect in Judæa between 26–36 A.D.
5. Philip the Tetrarch, also called Herod Philip II, was the son of Herod the Great and Cleopatra of Jerusalem. He ruled over the northeastern portion of his father's kingdom from 4 B.C. until he died in A.D. 34.
- 1) His kingdom included Iturea and Trachonitis; and possibly Gaulanitis and Paneas.
 - 2) Philip is not mentioned in Scripture, as his kingdom is just east of Galilee.
 - 3) On the other hand, his wife (and niece), Salome, is.
 - 4) There seems to be some disagreement in this regard, and [Wikipedia](#) suggests that there may be some historic confusion here, as Philip would have been nearly 40 years older than Salome (I don't know that would really be a problem).
 - 5) Salome had asked her father (Herod Antipas) for the head of John the baptizer. Matt. 14:1–11 (she is simply called the daughter of Herodias in this passage, as Philip was not her actual father).
6. *Herod Agrippa I was the grandson of Herod the Great (Acts 12). It was he who persecuted the church in Jerusalem and had the apostle James, the brother of John and son of Zebedee, put to death by the sword. By the hand of Herod Agrippa I, James became the first apostle to be martyred. Two of Agrippa I's daughters were Bernice and Drusilla, mentioned in Acts 24 and Acts 25.*
7. *Agrippa's son, Herod Agrippa II, was instrumental in saving Paul from being tried and imprisoned in Jerusalem by the Jews who hated his testimony of Jesus as the Messiah. King Agrippa, out of consideration for Paul being a Roman citizen, allowed Paul to defend himself, thereby giving Paul the opportunity to preach the gospel to all who were assembled (Acts 25—26). Agrippa II was the last of the line of Herods. After him, the family fell out of favor with Rome.*

When we come across these men later on in Scripture, I will provide the background for them. But this is quite fascinating, as this is a period of nearly 200 years where the descendants of Esau ruled over the descendants of Jacob.

Quotations taken from [Got Questions?](#); accessed April 12, 2019.

Additional references:

[Wikipedia](#); [Wikipedia](#); [Wikipedia](#); [Wikipedia](#); [Reasonable Theology. Org](#); [Bible Study.org](#);

All of these accessed April 12, 2019

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[Charts, Graphics and Short Doctrines](#)

Kingdoms of the Herods (a map); from [Bible Study.org](https://www.biblestudy.org); accessed April 12, 2019.

Like any map, we have an imprecise knowledge of history; and boundaries of countries and regions were often in flux.

The area within the black lines would be that ruled over by Herod the Great between 37–4 B.C.

Herod's sons ruled over the same area, which was divided up between them. However, their power was always subject to Roman Senate confirmation and Roman review. As you have read earlier, Herod Archelaus failed as a ruler over Judæa, but then, so did many others who followed him. The Hebrew people rejected the rule of an Idumæan and of anyone representing the Roman empire; and even of their own Messiah.



Herod Antipas

The information of Herod Antipas and Herod Phillip II came from **Luke 3** ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) ([WPD](#))

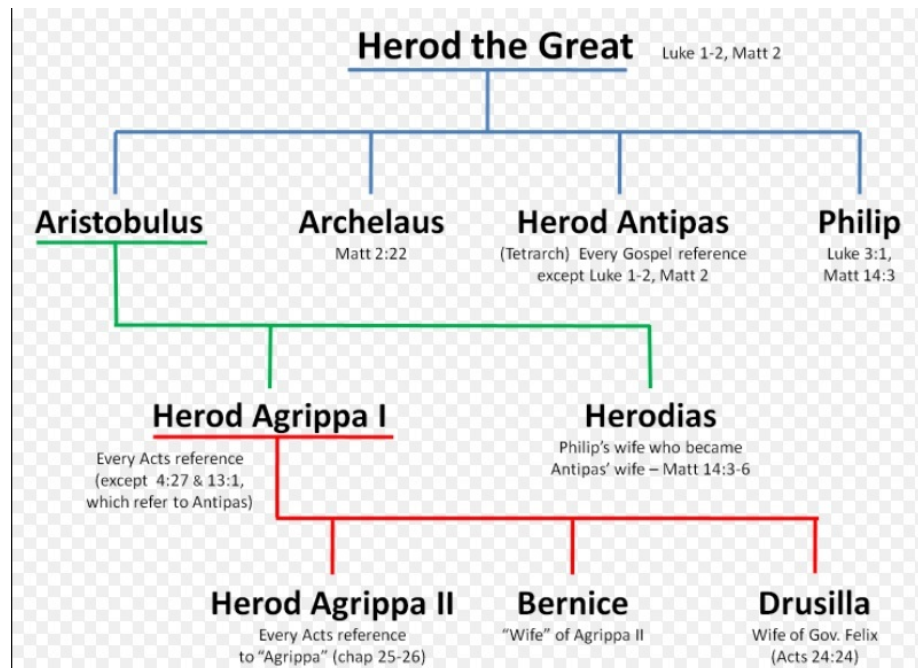
Luke 3:1c: ...Herod is the tetrarch of Galilee;...

This ruler named here is not Herod the Great, who has died by this time (about 30 years previous), but this is Herod Jr., one of his sons. He is often referred to as *Herod Antipas*.

We will briefly study these sons of Herod; primarily when their lives intersection with God's men of this era.

You just cannot know or appreciate the men here without knowing something about their father, Herod the Great and who was descended from him (and how).

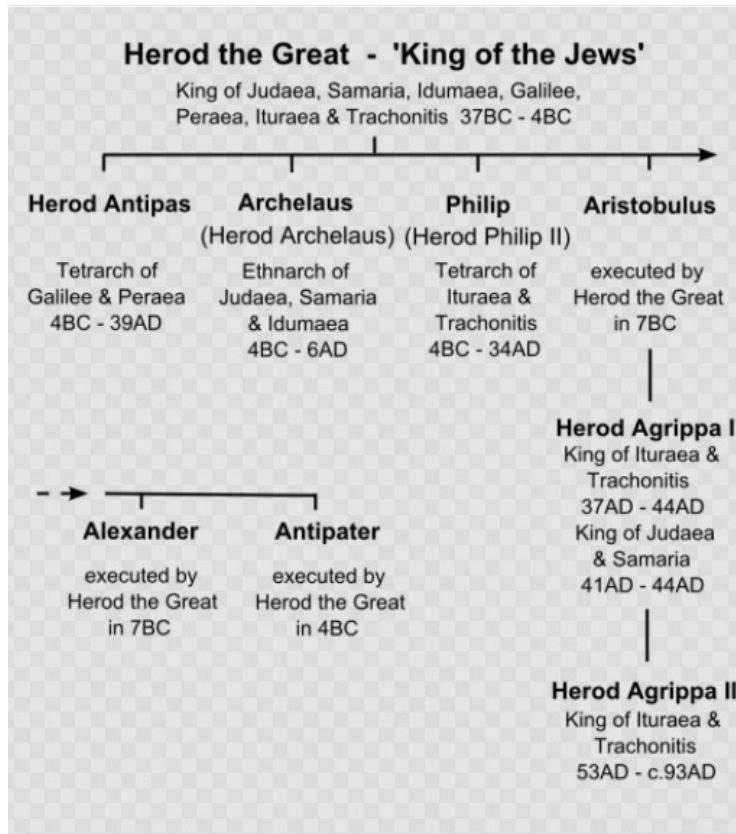
The Line of Herod the Great (a chart); from [WordPress](#); accessed November 4, 2018.



We associate Herod the Great with the birth of our Lord, Herod Antipas with John the herald and later with Jesus. Herod Agrippa I and Herod Agrippa II interact with the disciples of Jesus as they participate in the growing of the church in the book of Acts.

Herod the Great's Genealogy (a chart); from [The Bible Journey](#); accessed November 4, 2018.

Herod the Great is an Idumæan whom we studied briefly in Luke 1. He has 4 sons (of Biblical note); and one of them has a son and daughter of Biblical note.



We will refer back to this chart as we move further along in v. 1.

As an aside, Herod's genealogy is much more complex than this. We are simply concentrating on those related to Herod who are spoken of in Scripture. This chart does not take into account all of his wives or other children or grandchildren.

Herod ruled over a land which he apparently split into 4 districts, and his sons ruled over each of those districts (the reading I have done seems to suggest that Herod divided up this land himself).

We do not know exactly how this division of Herod's kingdom was set up, but for these men to have assumed rulership at the time that their father died suggests that

Herod the Great was a very organized and determined man. He split up his kingdom into 4 parts for 4 sons to rule.

However, before you nominate Herod for father of the year, Herod the Great executed 3 of his sons. Augustus remarked "It is better to be Herod's pig than his son." (I am assuming that Herod did not eat pork as per his adherence to the Jewish faith, so that his pigs were relative safe.) Also, to be fair, it was not unusual for a ruler's sons to plot the death of their father, thus giving them access to the throne (I believe that [Wikipedia](#) lists 15 such instances from history; and how many such plots by sons were frustrated by their fathers?).

Herod Tetrarch is Herod Antipas, sometimes known simply as Antipas. He is the 1st son listed in the genealogy chart, born to Malthace, Herod's Samaritan wife. He reigned over Galilee and Peraea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39. Galilee is the region where Jesus primarily presented Himself as the Messiah (although He revealed this fact only a very few times) and as the Savior of mankind.

Herod Antipas will see to the beheading of John the Herald (Matt. 14:1–12). He will be referred to as a fox by our Lord, which is an insult. Whereas we think of a fox as sly and cunning, in the ancient world, sometimes a ruler was understood to be a lion (a strong ruler) or, by way of contrast, a fox. There are several quotations from ancient history contrasting these two animals. “The lion you mentioned turns out to be a [mere] fox.” (Babylonian Talmud, Bava Kamma 117a). Most of the quotations from ancient history concerning lions and foxes are references to scholarship; but we take from it the contrast of the two animals. Herod Antipas would be one of the men who presides over one of the illegal trials of Jesus (Luke 23:7).

We have an interest in Herod Antipas, as he ruled over the land where Jesus primarily taught the Word of God.

Throughout, we may have mostly negative views about these rulers. Bear in mind that, without them, there is no Christianity, despite these people being negative toward the Word of God and behaving viciously towards the disciples of Jesus. On the positive side, these rulers provided law and order. They made it possible for Jesus to walk from point A to point B in Galilee in relative safety; where the people could follow Him and listen to Him as well. On the other hand, Herod and his sons many times exceeded their earthly authority as rulers.

Herod Phillip II

Luke 3:1d: ...his brother Philip is the tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region Trachonitis;...

Another of Herod the Great's sons is Philip. He is also referred to as Herod Philip II.

Whereas, you might have some idea about where Galilee is and where Jesus lived; you may not be able to figure out Ituraea or Trachonitis. The Galilee region is mostly west of the Sea of Galilee (and the northern river feeding into the sea); Ituraea and Trachonitis are east.

According to the Disciples' Literal Translation, this Philip II was a half-brother of Herod Antipas. His capital was Philip's Caesarea (mentioned in Matt. 16:13). He reigned from 4 B.C. to A.D. 34, making him almost an exact contemporary of Jesus. He is also called Herod Philip II and Philip the Tetrarch.

Herod the Great's Kingdom (a map); from [God's Word First](#); accessed November 4, 2018. All of these specified areas were once ruled by Herod the Great.



Herod divided his kingdom into 4 parts, hence the words *tetrarchy* (a fourth of a kingdom) and *tetrarch* (a ruler over a fourth).

In grey, you see Galilee and Perea, regions ruled by Herod Antipas. Philip rules over the regions northeast of the Sea of Galilee called Ituraea and Trachonitis. When Jesus sailed across the Sea of Galilee, this would have placed Him in Philip's territory (or in Decapolis).

Prior to the public ministry of Jesus, Archelaus, another son of Herod, ruled a region known to us as Judæa, Samaria and Idumea. However, he only reigned between 4 B.C. and A.D. 6. However, during his relatively short reign, we find this comment in Matthew: **But when**

he [Joseph] heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. (Matt. 2:22; ESV) This circumspection on the part of Joseph fulfills Old Testament prophecy. **And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.** (Matt. 2:23; ESV) Interestingly enough, we do not have an Old Testament passage to correlate with this.

According to the NET Bible, Archelaus was banished in A.D. 6 and died in A.D. 18.

This region, first ruled over by Herod the Great and then by his son Herod Archelaus; was the region that Pontius Pilate ruled over during the earthly ministry of Jesus.

Bibliography

Much of this, I took from my notes inside my Bible, which originally came from the study of the book of Matthew under R. B. Thieme Jr. This is a copy of notes which I had in my Bible, which were copied from my notes in a previous Bible, which were copied and condensed from other notes, which I took at a point where I knew nothing about Herod. I would guess that these ultimately came from Bob's lessons from Matt. 2. Mistakes were undoubtedly made when making these several transfers—I tried to correct everything from Scripture and from Durant's history. What was interesting about Thieme's teaching was,

Bibliography

Herod was not made out to be a monster that we find Biblical authorities making him out to be—I think this is part of the hook that Bob used, but without sacrificing academic integrity.

The Story of Civilization; 3. Cæsar and Christ, by Will Durant; MJF Books, ©1971; p. .

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1. This came from the Matthew series that R. B. Thieme, Jr. taught, as did most of the material on Herod. From R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Matthew*, MP3 CD (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1965), 438-005.