

“Jesus Before Herod”
John 18:38; Luke 23:7-12
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“For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur”
(Acts 4:27-28)

1. Pilate’s cowardly manipulation.

“But when Pilate...learned that He belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself also was in Jerusalem at that time” (Luke 23:6-7)

2. Jesus’ divine condemnation.

“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist” (Matthew 11:11)

“Herod...had John beheaded...Now when Jesus heard it, He withdrew...to a lonely place by Himself” (Luke 14:10, 13)

“Herod...began seeking to see Him” (Luke 9:7, 9)

“Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some miracle performed by Him. And he questioned Him at some length; but He answered him nothing” (Luke 23:8-9)

“Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you to pieces.” (Matthew 7:6)

4. Herod’s evil humiliation.

“And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Jesus with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate.” (Luke 23:11)

The Dynasty of Herod

Herod the Great (37—4 BC): Descendant of Esau (Edom); ruler of Israel under Roman authority; rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem; slaughtered the infants in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:13-18; cf. Revelation 12:4).

Herod Antipas (4 BC—AD 39): Son of Herod the Great and Malthace; tetrarch ruling over Perea & Galilee; married his sister-in-law Herodias and was rebuked by John; arrested and beheaded John; sought an audience with Jesus for years and wanted to kill Him; saw Jesus at Passover (Luke 3:1; 9:7; 13:31-32; 23; Matthew 11; 14; Mark 6; Acts 4:27-28).

Herod Philip I: Son of Herod the Great and Mariamne; stepbrother of Antipas; first husband of Herodias (Matthew 14:3); father of Salome, the dancing daughter.

Philip: Son of Herod and his fifth wife Cleopatra; tetrarch of Iturea (Luke 3:1); he married Salome, his niece, the dancing daughter of Herodias.

Archelaus: Son of Herod the Great and Malthace; governor over Idumea, Judea and Samaria 4 BC—AD 6 (Matthew 2:22)

Herod Agrippa I: Grandson of Herod the Great; king of Judea from AD 37—44; arrested Peter, murdered James; killed by an angel of the Lord (Acts 12).

Herodias: Granddaughter of Herod the great and Mariamne; sister of Herod Agrippa I; first married to her uncle, Herod Philip I; then married her uncle and brother-in-law, Herod Antipas; she had John the Baptist beheaded (Matthew 14).

Herod Agrippa II (AD 50—70): Son of Agrippa I, great-grandson of Herod the Great; tetrarch of Chalcis and northern area; heard Paul’s defense; the last of the Herodians (Acts 25:13-26:32).

Drusilla: Wife of Felix, daughter of Agrippa I; sister of Agrippa II and Bernice (Acts 24:24); heard Paul’s testimony.

Bernice: Older daughter of Agrippa I; sister of Drusilla and Agrippa II; married her brother, heard Paul’s testimony. (Acts 25).

Herodians: Jewish political party devoted to the Herods; wanted Jesus dead (Mark 3:6; 12:13; Matthew 22:16).