**HEROD FAMILY: A SELECTIVE FAMILY TREE**

**ANTIPATER**

Jewish from an Idumean or Edomite family; cunning politician; ingratiated himself with the Romans governor of Judea; granted particular privileges by Julius Caesar in the Roman empire to the Jews (exempted from regular military service & allowed to meet for worship)



**Phasael HEROD THE GREAT  
 (Matthew 2)**



Fought his way into Jerusalem & into power by 37BCE after a 3-month siege of Jerusalem. From then on until his death in 4BCE he was supreme in Jerusalem, king of all Judea, Samaria & Galilee. Herod’s Palestine was a police state, living in fear. The account in Matthew of Herod’s murderous reaction to the announcement of the birth of a ‘king of the Jews’ is entirely in character.

The Jews had very mixed feelings about Herod: he was ruthless & he taxed them heavily – needed to pay for his building work & his lavish lifestyle. Seen as an outsider (as an Idumean) & not as a proper Jew. But admired for his transformation of the Jerusalem temple. He started work on it in 19BCE which continued beyond his death to 63CE (only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70CE).

After his death he left his domain to the three of his sons in whom he still had confidence – **Archelaus**/Judea & Samaria; **Herod Antipas**/Galilee & Perez; **Philip**/parts of Northern Transjordan & Gaulinitis

Married

1. Doris (2) Mariamme 1 (3) Mariamme 2 (4) Malthake (5) Cleopatra



**Antipater\* Aristobulus\* Alexander\* Herod Philip Archelaus HEROD ANTIPAS Philip**

**Tetrarch of Galilee Tetrarch of Iturea &**



**Trachonitis**



**Agrippa 1 Herodias Herod of Chalcis**



**Salome**



**\*** executed by Herod the Great



**Herod Philip –** Matthew 14:3 & Luke 3:19 – originally married to **Herodias**

**Herodias –** was wife of **Herod Philip** then of **Herod Antipas** & had a daughter **Salome**

**Archelaus –** Matthew 2:22ca

**Philip –** Luke 3:1

**HEROD ANTIPAS –** Matthew 14:1f; Luke 3:1, Luke 23:7f

was a much more able ruler, who ruled in Galilee until 39BCE. He followed his father as a builder, for example building a magnificent city, Tiberias, on the west shore of Lake Galilee. He was more sensitive to Jewish feelings & scruples than others in his family, though he upset pious Jews by divorcing his wife & marrying Herodias, who had been married to his brother Herod Philip. He was denounced among others by John the Baptist, a popular prophet. **Herod** arrested John & in due course executed him at the instigation of **Herodias.**

**Herodias** eventually proved the downfall of her husband, when she, with her usual ambition, persuaded **Herod Antipas** to ask the Romans for the honour & title of king. The Romans suspected his ambitions & he was rewarded with being deposed from office & exiled in France.

**Introduction of John Luke 3:1-6**

Luke shows that John began preaching somewhere between September 27BCE & October 28BCE (or, less likely, the following year).

**Tiberius Caesar** reigned as sole emperor from 14BCE to 37BCE but shared some power with Augustus from 13BCE.

**Herod Antipas**, son of Herod the Great, was tetrarch (governor) of Galilee from 4BCE to 39CE.

**Pontius Pilate** was in office from 26 to 36CE. Presumably Pilate was installed with the approval of Sejanus, the praetorian prefect who influenced most of Tiberius’ decisions at that point; although attested in an inscription & featuring prominently in Josephus & Philo, Pilate proved of little interest to Rome’s own historians except once – for his execution of Jesus.

**Philip of Trachonitis** was son of **Herod the Great** & was married to **Herodias**’ daughter **Salome**; he died in Tiberius’ 20th year; Itureans were a pastoral tribe known for raiding others & initially difficult to control.

**Lysanias** ruled Abilene (named for its leading town, Abila) but his territory, along with that of **Philip**, was later transferred to **Agrippa**.

**Annas** was high priest from 6-15CE, when the Romans deposed him. According to Jewish law, the high priest was entitled to rule for life; thus some Jews no doubt considered the Roman deposition of **Annas** invalid & he continued to command great respect. He was father-in-law of **Caiaphas** & all five of **Annas**’ sons became highest priests at some point; he retained enormous influence until his death in 35CE. He was wealthy & powerful, but later Jewish literature (written by successors of those he opposed) does not speak well of him. The high priesthood had been the most powerful office in Jewish Palestine until the Roman period.