

PALESTINE IN THE TIME OF AGRIPPA II. 48-70 A.D.

English Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40



EXPLANATION OF COLOURING

- Areas of Revolt
- Agrippa II.
- Phoenicia
- Decapolis

**A ROMAN JUDGE, A JEWISH KING, A CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY
AND THE RESURRECTED LORD JESUS CHRIST!
ACTS CH25:13-22**

ILLUSTRATION

How many Herod's are mentioned in the New Testament? - 6!

KING AGRIPPA TAKES THE INITIATIVE! V13-16

Who is this King Agrippa? **Herod Agrippa II (ruled A.D. 50 – 70 + died around A.D. 93)**
His great - grandfather was Herod the Great and His father was Herod Agrippa the 1st, who died suddenly, when, “He did not give God the glory” when referred to as a god by the people of Tyre and Sidon and was thus struck by an angel and “eaten by worms” (Acts 12:20 – 23).

Like his father Herod Agrippa I and great-grandfather Herod the Great, he ruled over a large territory (see above map). He is the one who will interview Paul along with the Roman procurator Festus (Acts 25 - 26). Agrippa exclaimed to Paul (literal translation): “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28).

He was educated in Rome at the Court of Claudius until he was deemed old enough to take charge of the region ruled by his Uncle. ***The Emperor had also given him responsibility for the Temple at Jerusalem and the appointment of the chief priest!***

Why isn't Bernice referred to as “Queen”? Bernice is the oldest sister of Herod Agrippa 2nd, and older sister of Drusilla Ch24:24. Sadly, it was understood that Herod and his youngest sister were in an incestuous relationship with each other!

Luke makes it clear that Herod Agrippa 2nd had come to pay his respects to the newly appointed procurator.

KING AGRIPPA TAKES INTEREST! V17-19

Whilst the procurator insists that he did not delay in acting expediently towards Paul, he also makes it clear that he could not find anything deserving of death! But highlights in verse 19 what the real issue was for him and indeed all parties concerned. ***THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS!***

Why does Luke dwell so much on the details here? I want to suggest that it is because it directly relates to Paul, and the theme of Jesus' resurrection, which has already been raised by Paul, and will be raised by him again:

- Ch23:6 - 8
- Ch24:14 – 16+21
- Ch25:19
- Ch26:6-8 + 22-23
- Ch28:20

So often, the conflict that arises within Christian families is because of where people stand on the resurrection of Jesus. For those who truly believe that Jesus, being fully man and fully God, was crucified and then rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and now reigns supremely at the right hand of God, do life differently, to those who don't believe this! ***THIS BRINGS ULTIMATE CONFLICT!***

Festus, understands that what Paul is being accused of, is a “theological Issue” that is, matters pertaining to God and His nature! Theology is the study of God and His nature, where we learn about theological issues!

Paul has studied the Scriptures and has become a “born again Christian”, where theology directs his life!

KING AGRIPPA TAKES ON THE INVESTIGATION! V20-22

V20 - Festus now admits he is at a loss as to what to do, not disclosing that he initially wanted to do the Jews a favour (Ch25:9), is seeking counsel from Agrippa!

On 6 previous occasions, Luke records for us the actions of Jewish injustice and the actions of Roman justice, ultimately, so that the Gospel is protected (Ch13:4-12; Ch18:12-17; Ch21:27-36; Ch27:37-Ch22:24; Ch23:1-11, Ch23:23-35)! But now, this is the 2nd occasion that those responsible to administer Roman Justice, have failed because they are both compromised wanting approval of “the Jewish leaders through favours” - Felix Ch24:27 + Festus Ch25:9!

And what kind of a leader is he seeking counsel with, someone reportedly in an incestuous relationship with his youngest sister!

APPLICATION

How do we think it is going to go for Paul?

How important to Paul do you think his belief in Christ was?

How is Paul fulfilling Jesus prophesy to him from Ch9:15?

What was Jesus' promise to those who would stand in Court because of Him?

How is this chapter similar and different to Luke Ch23?

What do you make of Mark Ch13:11?

APPENDIX

1. **Herod the Great (ruled 37 - 4 B.C.)** He's the guy in the Christmas story. Super powerful cruel king answerable to Rome. Tried to trick the wise men. Killed the babies in Bethlehem (not to mention some of his own sons and wives) - Matt Ch2:1, 3, Ch2:7, 12-13, 15-16, 19. Luke Ch1:5

2. **Herod Archelaus (ruled 4 B.C. - A.D. 6)** He was one of Herod the Great's three sons mentioned in the Bible. He received one-half of his father's territory, the area surrounding and near Jerusalem (Judea and Samaria). Joseph was unwilling to move Mary and toddler Jesus to Bethlehem after fleeing to Egypt because Bethlehem was in this Herod's territory and, like his father “the Great,” Herod Archelaus wasn't known to be very cuddly either. He got replaced by a Roman procurator less than ten years into his reign; that's why Pontius Pilate is the man in charge at Jesus' crucifixion rather than one of the “Herod's” - Matt Ch2:22

3. **Herod Antipas (ruled 4 B.C. - A.D. 39)** Jesus called him “the Fox” (Luke 13:32). Received a quarter of his father's territory (Galilee and Perea). Divorced his first wife and married Herodias, the wife of his brother (who was yet a different “Herod”). Killed John the Baptist. ***Pontius Pilate sent Jesus to see this Herod as part of Jesus' trial*** since this Herod was visiting Jerusalem at the time Jesus was sentenced to death. Did you know that Pilate and Herod Antipas became friends that day (Luke 23:12)? - Matt Ch14:1, 3, 6. Mark Ch6:14, 16-18, 20-22. Mark Ch8:15. Luke Ch3:1, 19. Luke Ch8:3. Luke Ch9:7, 9. Luke Ch13:31. Luke Ch23:7, 8, 11-12, 15. Acts Ch4:27. Acts Ch13:1

4. **Herod Philip the Tetrarch (ruled 4 B.C. - A.D. 34)** Got the remaining quarter of his father's territory (north and east of Galilee—mostly ruled over Syrians and Greeks). Married his niece, Salome, the daughter of Herodias (Herod Antipas's wife-of-sin)

5. **Herod Agrippa I (ruled A.D. 37 - 44 (41-44 in Judea))** Grandson of Herod the Great and nephew of Herodias, Herod Antipas's wife. Eventually ended up ruling over even more territory than his grandfather, Herod the Great. In the book of Acts, he is known as the one who had James (the brother of John) put to death by the sword and put Peter in prison (Acts 12:1-5) although he couldn't keep him there (12:6-19)! Also..... "He did not give God the glory" when referred to as a god by the people of Tyre and Sidon and was thus struck by an angel and "eaten by worms" (Acts 12:20-23)

6. **Herod Agrippa II (ruled A.D. 50S - died around A.D. 93)** Like his father Herod Agrippa I and great-grandfather Herod the Great, he ruled over a large territory. He's the one who interviewed Paul along with the Roman procurator Festus when Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea, after Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 25 - 26). Agrippa exclaimed to Paul (literal translation): "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian" (Acts 26:28).

After this last Herod, we don't hear anything more of the dynasty of the family called "Herod."

1st century Caesars

- Augustus (31 BC–14 AD)
- Tiberius (14–37 AD)
- Caligula (37-41 AD)
- Claudius* (41–54 AD)
- Nero* (54–68 AD)
- Galba (68–69 AD)
- Otho* (January–April 69 AD)
- Aulus Vitellius_(July–December 69 AD)
- Vespasian (69-79 AD)