

# Confronting Herod

Luke 3:19-20; Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:17-29



## Luke 3:19-20

LUKE

**19** But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, **20** added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

# “Herod the tetrarch”

LUKE

*tetraarchēs*

*tessares* (“four”) + *archō* (“to rule”)

Mark 6:14 calls him “King Herod”

**Which “Herod?”**

What is a “tetrarch” and how did Herod become one?

**Let's Take a Moment to...**

LUKE

**Meet the Herods!**

# Antipater the Idumaeen (114 – 43 B.C.) LUKE

- Family converted to Judaism in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C., and he served in the Hasmonean royal administration
- **When Rome conquered Judea, he became a client of Pompey**
- **When Julius Caesar defeated Pompey, he became loyal to Caesar and was named chief minister of Judea**
  - **Named his two sons, Phasael and Herod governor of Judea and Galilee**

# Herod the Great (72 – 1 B.C.)

LUKE

- Takes the title of *basileus* (“king”) for himself and rules in Judea
- Christened “king of the Jews” by Mark Antony (37 B.C.), and becomes a vassal of the Roman Empire
- He began renovations on the Temple Mount in 20 B.C.
- The temple was completed in 18 months, but construction of the mount would continue for 80 years

# Herod the Great in the NT

LUKE

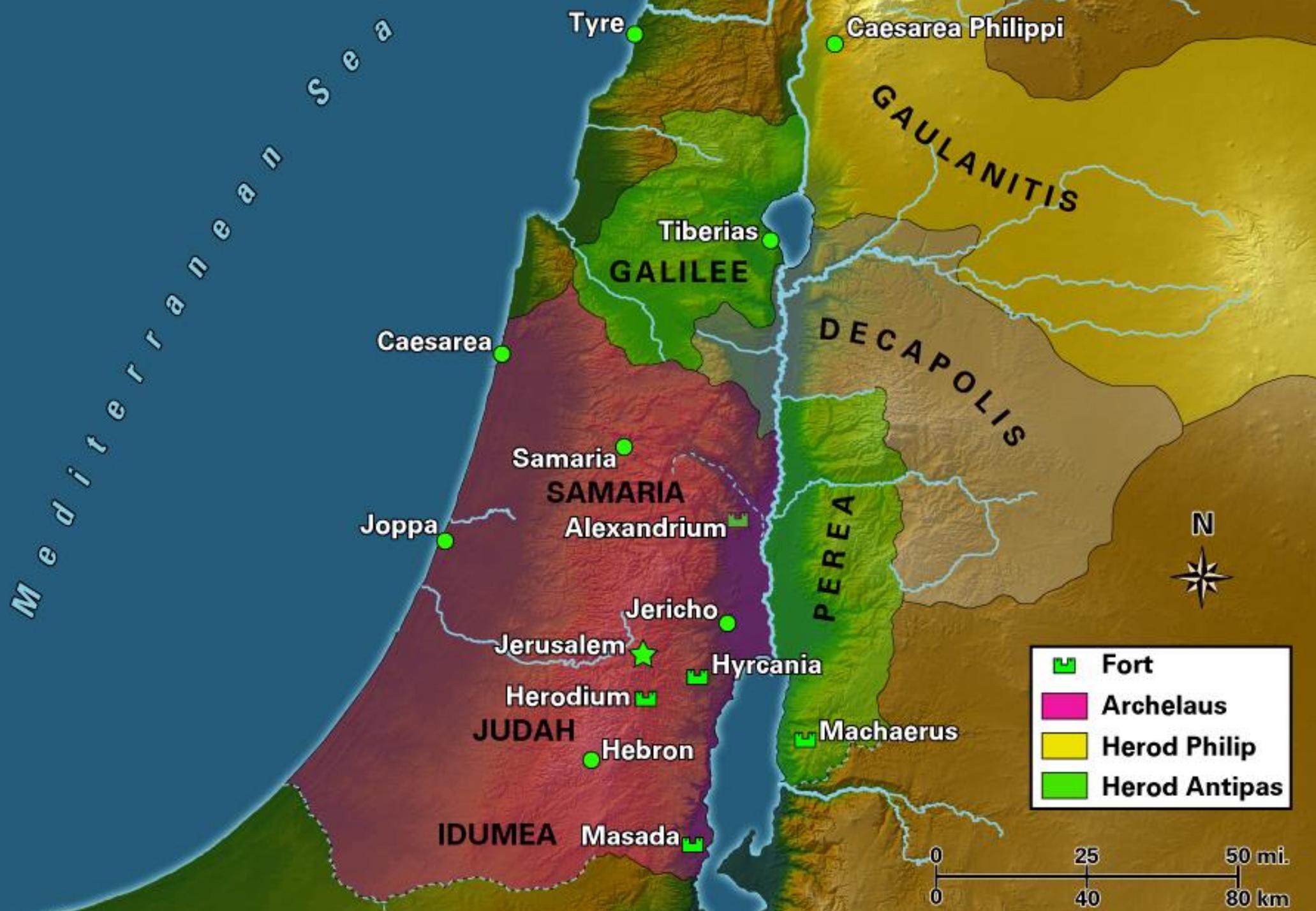
- Matthew 2
  - The visit of the Magi
  - The slaughter of the innocents in Bethlehem
- Luke 1:5 – “in the days of Herod”

# Family Tree

LUKE

- Herod married at least 8 wives (possibly 10), and had 14 children by 8 of them (although he most likely had more children).

1. **Antipater II** 
2. Alexander 
3. **Aristobulus IV** 
4. Philip I 
5. **Archelaus**
6. Antipas
7. **Philip II**



# Two More Sons

LUKE

## 1. Herod Archelaus

- **Matthew 2:22** – “But when he heard that **Archelaus** was reigning over Judea in place of his father **Herod**, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by **God** in a dream, he left for the regions of **Galilee**”

## 2. Herod Philip II

- **Luke 3:1** – “Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of **Tiberius Caesar**, when **Pontius Pilate** was governor of **Judea**, and **Herod** was tetrarch of **Galilee**, and his brother **Philip** was tetrarch of the region of **Ituraea and Trachonitis**”

# Herod Antipas

LUKE

- Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea
- He is the Herod in view in our text this morning (Luke 3:19-20; Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:17-29)
- Jesus is sent to him by Pilate on the morning of the crucifixion; he and his soldiers mock Christ (Luke 23:7-12)

# Other Herods in the NT

LUKE

- Herod Agrippa I
  - In Acts 12, he executes James and imprisons Peter
  - In the same chapter, he accepts worship at Caesarea, and the Lord “struck him...and he was eaten of worms and died.”
- Herod Agrippa II
  - In Acts 25-26, Paul appears before him, gives his testimony and the gospel, to which Agrippa responds, “In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian.”

# “Herodias, his brother’s wife”

LUKE

- Daughter of Aristobulus IV; granddaughter of Herod the Great; full sister of Herod Agrippa I
- Given in marriage to Philip I (her half-uncle) while she was still a minor
- Philip I was implicated in a poisoning plot against his father, and so, just weeks before Herod the Great’s death, he was written out of the will and forced to flee to Rome.

# The Drama

LUKE

- Despite having a child with Philip, Herodias left her husband, returned to Judea, and married his brother (and another half-uncle), Antipas.
- For Antipas' part, he divorced his wife Phasaelis, the daughter of King Aretas IV of Nabatea.
- Simply put: this is an international incident, and it brings sharp condemnation from both religious and secular sources.

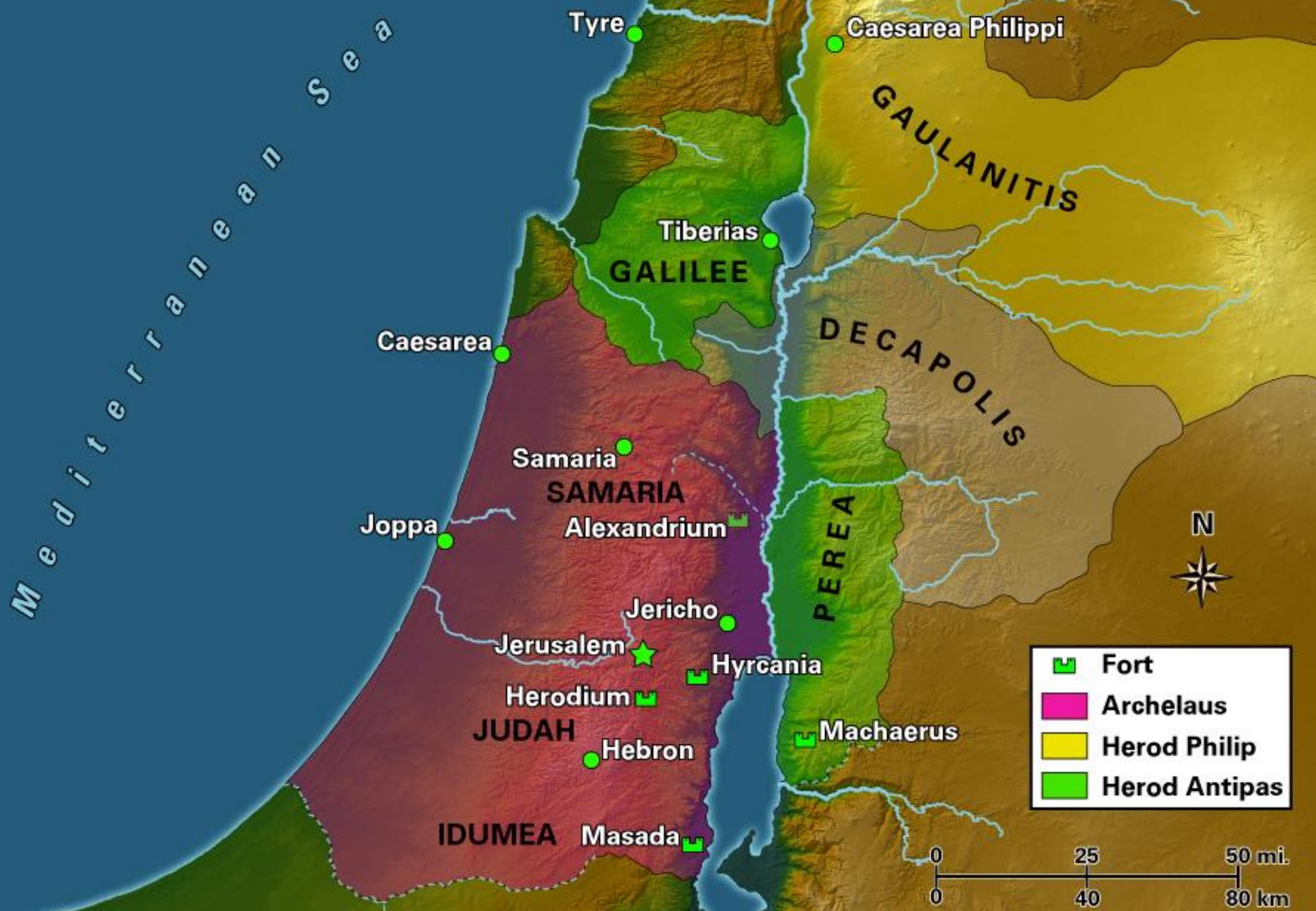
# John the Baptist



## Mark 6:17-18

LUKE

**17** For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. **18** For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."









## Leviticus 18:16; 20:21

LUKE

**16** You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

**21** If a man takes his brother's wife, it is impurity. He has uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.

**5** And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet.

**46** And although they were seeking to arrest him [Jesus], they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

**20** for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

**6** But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company and pleased Herod, **7** so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask.

## Mark 6:21-23

LUKE

**21** But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. **22** For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you." **23** And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."

# How Do We Know?

LUKE

- Well, Mark tells us that “nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee” were in attendance.
- Luke then tells us in 8:3 that one of the women who accompanied Jesus was “Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager.”
- Undoubtedly, Chuza would have been in attendance for such an important banquet.

# “the daughter of Herodias”

LUKE

- Josephus says her name was “Salome.”
- She was a product of Herodias’ first marriage to Philip I.
- Again, according to Josephus, she would later marry her uncle, Philip II (“the tetrarch” of Luke 3:1).
- Tradition says after Philip’s death, she married a cousin and became queen of Chalcis and Armenia Minor.

## Esther 5:3, 6

LUKE

**3** And the king said to her, “What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? It shall be given you, even to the half of my kingdom.”

**6** And as they were drinking wine after the feast, the king said to Esther, “What is your wish? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.”

## Mark 6:24-25

LUKE

**24** And she went out and said to her mother, “For what should I ask?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.” **25** And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

**19** And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not

## Matthew 14:9; Mark 6:26

LUKE

**9** And the king was sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given.

**26** And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

## Mark 6:27-28

LUKE

**27** And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison **28** and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

# The Demise of the Herods

LUKE

- Herod the Great
  - Died a Horribly Painful Death (“Herod’s Evil”)
- Herod Antipas
  - Died in Exile
- Herod Agrippa I
  - Eaten of Worms
- Herod Agrippa II
  - Died Childless, Ending the Dynasty

## Matthew 14:12; Mark 6:29

LUKE

**12** And his disciples came and took the body and buried it, and they went and told Jesus.

**29** When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

**Mark 6:18b says:**

LUKE

**“It is not lawful for you to have  
your brother’s wife.”**

**This seems to indicate a direct and  
personal confrontation.**

**35** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

LUKE

