

The Herodians

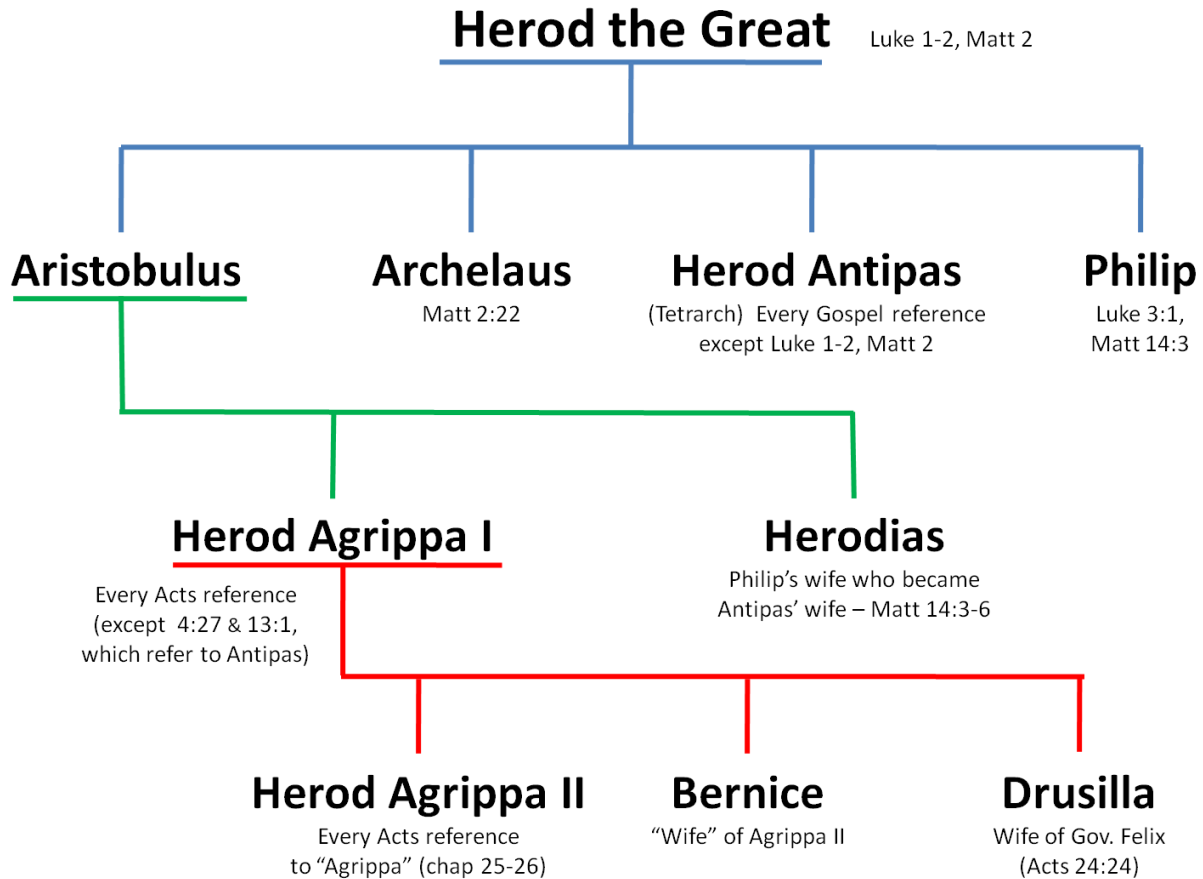


Image from: <https://pastorglenn.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/herods-family-tree.png>

Herod the Great [Matt. 2:1ff.] – Governor of Galilee (47-44), tetrarch of Galilee (44-40), elected king of Judea in 40 B.C. and ruled 37-4 B.C.

After Herod's death, Judea was ruled by 4 people (tetrarchy) (an arrangement made by the Roman Senate)

Herod **Archelaus** [Matt. 2:22] – Ethnarch of Judea, Samaria and Idumea (roughly half of his father's territory), 4 B.C. – A.D. 6 (banished to Gaul and his land became the Roman province of Judea)

Philip the Tetrarch [Luke 3:1, Matt. 14:3(??)] – Tetrarch of Iturea and Trachonitis, 4 B.C. – A.D. 34 (died childless, land given over to Syrian legate, later to Agrippa I)

Herod Antipas [Every Gospel reference except those noted above and Acts 4:27 and 13:1] – Tetrarch of Galilee and Perea, 4 B.C.-A.D. 39 (exiled to Spain by Caligula)

Herod Agrippa I [Every Acts reference except 4:27 and 13:1] – King of the Jews, A.D. 37-44 (given Philip's territories in 37, Antipas' in 39, and Archelaus' in 41)

Herod Agrippa (II) [Agrippa of Acts 25-26] – A.D. 48-66 (In 66 A.D. the Jewish Revolt broke out against Rome. Agrippa chose to fight on Rome's side. The Romans won and left Jerusalem in ruins. The Herodian Dynasty ends here.)

The Herodians

The Herods in the Gospels

1. **Herod the Great**, founder of the dynasty, tried to kill the infant Jesus by the “slaughter of the innocents” at Bethlehem.
2. **Herod Philip (I?) (referred to as Herod II)**, uncle and first husband of **Herodias**, was not a ruler.
3. **Herodias** left **Herod Philip** to marry his half-brother **Herod Antipas, Tetrarch** of Galilee & Perea.
4. **John the Baptist** rebuked **Antipas** for marrying **Herodias**, his brother’s wife, while his brother was still alive—against the law of Moses.
5. **Salome** (not mentioned by name in the NT, but usually identified with “the daughter of Herodias” who danced for **Herod Antipas** and, at **Herodias’s** direction, requested the beheading of **John the Baptist**). Josephus records Salome as married to her great-uncle **Philip the Tetrarch**.
6. **Herod Antipas, Tetrarch** of Galilee & Perea (r. 4 B.C.E.–39 C.E.), was **Herodias’s** uncle and second husband. After **Salome’s** dance and his rash promise, he executed **John the Baptist**. Much later he held part of Jesus’ trial.
7. **Herod Archelaus, Ethnarch** of Judea, Samaria and Idumea (r. 4 B.C.E.–6 C.E.), was replaced by a series of Roman governors, including **Pontius Pilate** (r. 26–36 C.E.).
8. **Philip (II?) the Tetrarch** of northern territories (r. 4 B.C.E.–34 C.E.) later married **Herodias’s** daughter **Salome**, his grandniece.

Note: There is A LOT of disagreement on the identities of #2 and #8 because of #3 and #5. Josephus says that Philip was married to Salome, Mark (6:17-29) that he was married to Salome’s mother. Josephus, however, also says that Antipas was married to Herodias, agreeing with Mark.

The Herods in Acts

9. **King Herod Agrippa I** (r. 37–44 C.E.) executed **James the son of Zebedee** and imprisoned **Peter** before his miraculous escape.
10. **Berenice**, twice widowed, left her third husband to be with brother **Agrippa II** (rumored lover) and was with him at Festus’s trial of **Paul**.
11. **King Herod Agrippa II** (r. 50–c. 93 C.E.) was appointed by **Festus** to hear **Paul’s** defense.
12. **Antonius Felix**, Roman procurator of Judea (r. 52–c. 59 C.E.), **Paul’s** first judge, left him in prison for two years until new procurator **Porcius Festus** (r. c. 60–62 C.E.) became the second judge, and **Paul** appealed to Caesar.
13. **Drusilla** left her first husband to marry Roman governor **Felix**.

Adapted from: <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/herod-the-great-herodian-family-tree/>