

Where you've heard these names...

Herod the Great – An Idumean king who received his authority from Rome. He was king of Israel at the time of Jesus' birth. He commanded the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem and was heavily involved in the renovation of the temple. (Matthew 2:1-19)

Herod Archelaus – When Herod the Great died his son Herod Archelaus rose to the throne. Upon hearing the news that Herod the Great was dead, Joseph was told that he could return safely to Israel, but when he found out that Archelaus ruled in his father's stead he turned aside into Nazareth and raised Jesus there. (Matthew 2:22-23) Herod Archelaus' reign only lasted approximately ten years.

Herod Antipas – Herod Antipas was the Herod who was ruling during Jesus public ministry. He had an affair and ultimately married his brother Philip's (Herod Philip) wife, Herodias. John the Baptist publicly decried the marriage as sinful and earned the hatred of Herodias and the irritation of Antipas. (Mark 6:17-20) Herod Antipas was publicly shamed into having John the Baptist beheaded at the request of his step-daughter, Salome.

Herodias – Herodias was first the wife of Herod Philip and then of Herod Antipas. She had a daughter with Philip, named Salome. Herodias hated John the Baptist because of his public denunciation of her infidelity. She told her daughter, Salome, to request the head of the Baptist when she was offered her choice of reward for dancing for Herod. (Mark 6:22-28)

Salome – Daughter of Herodias by Philip, step-daughter to Antipas by marriage. She danced before Herod on his birthday and when offered her choice of reward, she requested the head of John the Baptist on a silver platter. (Mark 6:21-28) She would go on to marry Philip the Tetrarch (her uncle.)

Herod Agrippa I – Agrippa I oversaw the first wave of persecution against the Church in Jerusalem. He had James the brother of John beheaded and Peter cast into prison, from which he miraculously escaped. (Acts 12:1-19) Agrippa I died after being eaten from within by worms when he accepted the praise of a crowd who declared him to be a god. (Acts 12:20-23)

Herod Agrippa II – Agrippa II sat on the trial of the Apostle Paul when he gave his defense before Festus, the Roman governor of Judea. It is strongly suspected that he was married to his sister Bernice, who was also present at Paul's trial before Festus. Agrippa II told Paul in Acts 26:28 *"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."* (Acts 25–26)

Antonius Felix – Simply referred to in Scripture as Felix, he was the Roman governor of Judea who immediately preceded Festus. Paul was taken prisoner in Jerusalem under his jurisdiction and when he left office, Acts 24:27 *"willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound."* Under the preaching of the Apostle Paul, Felix was brought under tremendous conviction, but told Paul in Acts 24:25 *"Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."* It is never recorded in Scripture that he heard Paul preach again. (Acts 21–24)