

Last Week

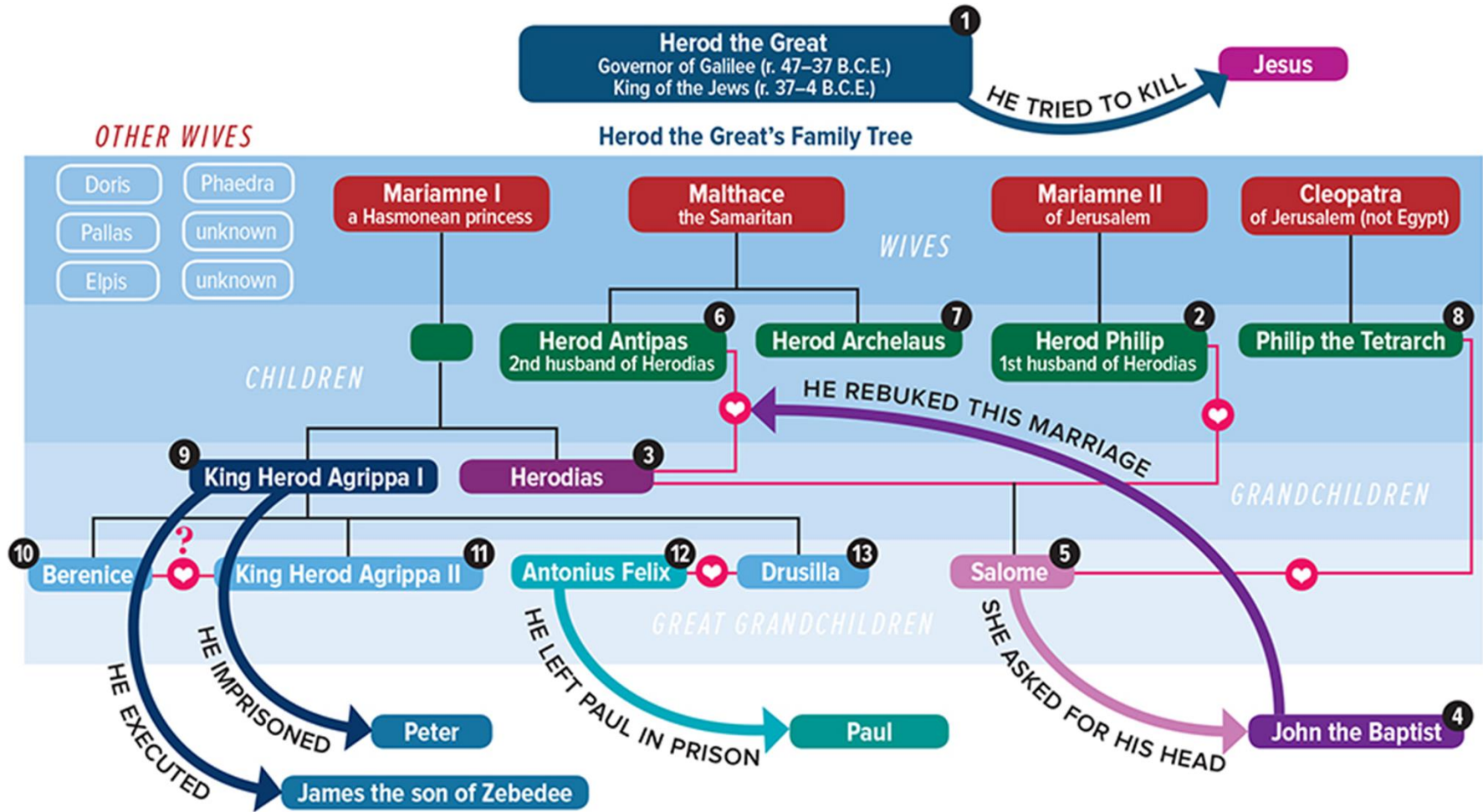
- ▶ The violent mob in Jerusalem
- ▶ Paul completes his address to the mob
 - They listened until “this word”
 - Romans took charge and were going to examine him through scourging, but learned of Paul’s Roman citizenship
- ▶ They brought him the next day before the Jewish council
 - “I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day”
 - A dissension arose in the assembly over the resurrection
 - Paul was about to be “pulled to pieces by them”
 - The Romans took him by force back into the barracks
- ▶ The Lord stood by Paul the next night and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome”



- ▶ The plot
 - The chief priests and elders agreeable
 - One who knew, spoke up
 - Paul was active in his own safety even though promised by the Lord that he would go to Rome
- ▶ Lysias did the right thing
 - Compare to Pilate – John 18:38; 19:4,6



The Herodian Family



Paul before Felix, the governor

- ▶ Paul's Jewish accusers came from Jerusalem
- ▶ And an orator Tertullus
 - Who specializes in the oily art of the tongue
- ▶ Three accusations, all lies
 1. A plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world
 - Antioch, Iconium, Thessalonica, Ephesus...
 - Who is the troubler?
 - Acts 17:6
 - 1 Kings 18:17



Paul before Felix, the governor

- ▶ Three accusations, all lies
 2. Ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes
 - Matthew 2:23
 - John 1:46
 3. Tried to profane the temple
 - Acts 21:29
 - “and we seized him – wanted to judge him according to their law”
- ▶ And another rewrite:
 - “But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands”
- ▶ False witnesses – verse 9
 - Exodus 20:16
- ▶ Attempt to prejudice the judge – verse 8



Paul's Response

- ▶ Creator of dissension?
 - He came to Jerusalem to worship
 - Not found in the temple disputing or inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city
 - They have no proof
- ▶ Ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes?
 - “they call a sect”
 - Worship the God of my fathers (the God of the Jews)
 - Believe all the things written in the Law and in the prophets
 - Whose way is right then?
 - No contradiction between the Way and the Law of Moses
 - John 5:46–47
 - Paul has hope in God, which they themselves also accept
- ▶ Tried to profane the temple?
 - Brought alms and offerings to his kinsmen in the flesh who were Christians
 - Jews from Asia found him purified in the temple with neither multitude nor tumult



Paul's Response

- ▶ Those Jews who supposed Paul had taken a Gentile into the temple should have been present to accuse him
- ▶ Or...
 - The accusers present should say whether they found any wrong-going in him when he was before them (in chapter 23)
 - Is this what they have against me – that I said, “concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day”?



Felix & Paul

- ▶ He had more accurate knowledge of the Way
- ▶ Decides to postpone any decision
 - Says he will wait until Lysias, the commander, comes down.
 - Did that ever happen?
- ▶ Paul is kept a prisoner, but with some privileges
 - Can have visitors and providers
 - Who lives in Caesarea?



Felix & Drusilla hear Paul

- ▶ Sent for him and heard him concerning the faith in Christ
- ▶ Paul reasoned with them
 - Righteousness
 - Self-control
 - Judgment to come
- ▶ These are things they needed to hear, not necessarily...
 - What they wanted to hear,
 - Nor easy things to speak
- ▶ The response
 - Fear and Delay
 - The gospel affects the intellect, the conscience, the emotions
 - Disturbed
 - Respond this way, and the fears are quieted: Obey
 - Respond this way, and the fears can eventually be snuffed out: Procrastinate
 - Both of these responses are an act of the will of man
 - Free will, free choice
 - The will is that other part of the heart. But man must will to do.
 - Contrast this response to Acts 16:30–31

