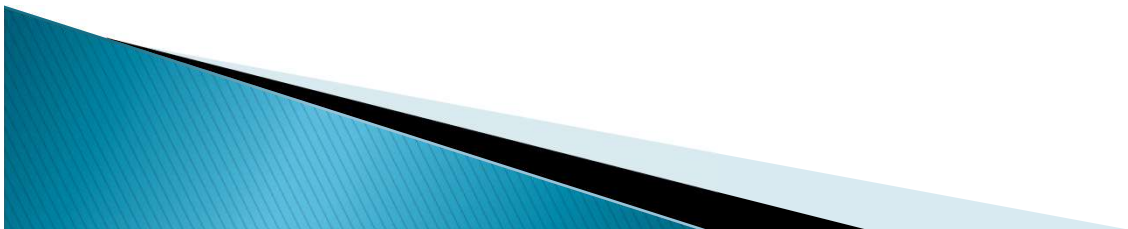


Two Weeks Ago

- ▶ The plot to ambush and kill Paul on the way to Caesarea
- ▶ A look at the Herodian family
- ▶ Paul before governor Felix
 - Jewish accusers with their orator Tertullus
 - False accusations against Paul
 - A plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world
 - Ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes
 - Tried to profane the temple



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



Felix & Paul

- ▶ Felix had more accurate knowledge of the Way
- ▶ Decides to postpone any decision
 - Says he will wait until Lysias, the commander, comes down.
- ▶ Paul is kept a prisoner, but with some privileges



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

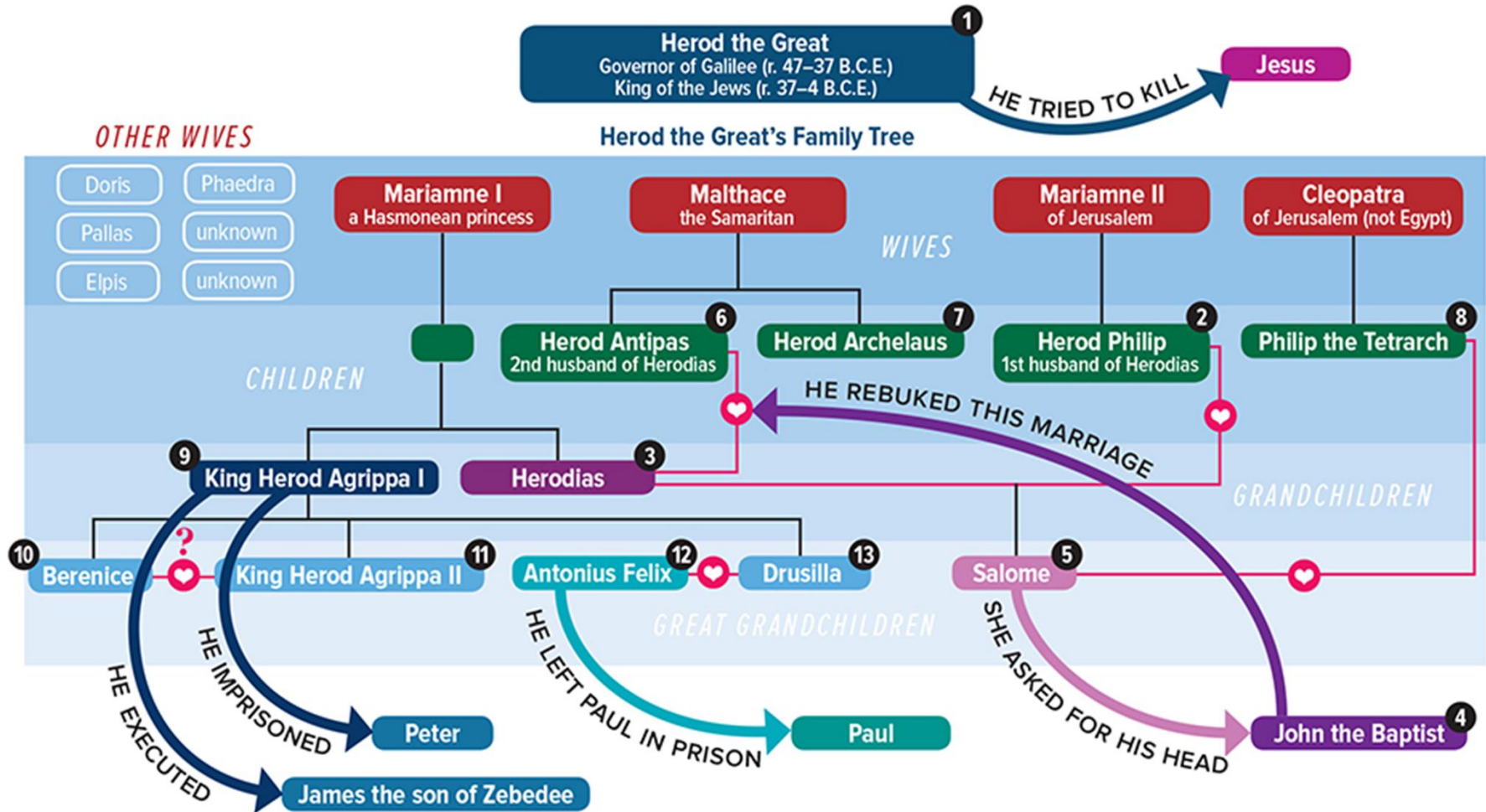


Felix & Paul

- ▶ Verse 26, an evil motive:
 - “Hoped that money would be given him
 - Bribery
 - C.f. Acts 24:17
- ▶ Two years!
- ▶ Festus followed Felix
 - 60 A.D.
 - Left Paul bound, wanting to do the Jews a favor
- ▶ Puts the trial of Acts 24 in 58 A.D.
 - A time marker for the chronology of Acts



The Herodian Family



Festus, Paul, and the Accusing Jews

- ▶ The request of high priest and the chief men
- ▶ Festus keeps Paul in Caesarea and requests the accusers to come to Caesarea with him
- ▶ Another trial for Paul
- ▶ Festus asks for Paul's willingness to Jerusalem
 - To please the Jews
 - Paul declines & appeals to Caesar
- ▶ Providence of God
 - Acts 23:11



King Agrippa and Bernice, and Paul

- ▶ Herod Agrippa II
- ▶ Possibly married to his sister Bernice
- ▶ Festus laid the case before King Agrippa
- ▶ Festus's description of the situation
 - Chief priests and elders of the Jews in Jerusalem wanted Paul delivered to them, but accused should first meet the accusers to answer for himself the charges
 - The two parties brought together
 - The charges were not as Festus had suspected, but were about their own religion and about Jesus who had died, whom Paul affirmed to be alive
 - Festus uncertain of those questions, so he asked whether Paul would be willing to go to Jerusalem and be judged there
 - But Paul appealed to Caesar's judgment
- ▶ King Agrippa wants to hear Paul himself



A Royal Setting

- ▶ Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp/pageantry
- ▶ Commanders and prominent men of the city
- ▶ Festus lays out again the case before Agrippa
 - He is hopeful Agrippa will help him with something to write to Caesar concerning Paul and the charges against him
- ▶ Paul is before a King
 - Matthew 10:18; Luke 12:11 – a promise to Jesus' chosen apostles
 - Paul was an apostle born out of due time
 - Acts 26:16–18

