

The Herodian Dynasty

Explanation

The complicated family tree of Herod the Great, beginning with his grandfather and ending with several people mentioned later in the New Testament, is shown on chart 2-2. Eight of his wives are shown. The family was dysfunctional, tumultuous, and sometimes violent. It was said by some that it was better to be a pig than a son of Herod.

Herod Antipas, a son of Herod the Great, beheaded John the Baptist. Antipas had married a “near relative,” in violation of the Law of Moses. Their daughter Salome danced and demanded the head of John.

Paul appeared before Felix and Agrippa II, descendants of Herod’s brother Phasael and Herod’s sister Salome.

References

Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, “King Herod,” *MWNT*, 38.

David C. Braund, “Herodian Dynasty,” *ABD*, 3:173–74.

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