



The Kingdom of Herod the Great: The History of the Herodian Dynasty in Ancient Israel During the Life of Jesus

Charles River Editors

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*Includes pictures *Includes Gospel accounts of the history *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading *Includes a table of contents Herod is one of the more well-known characters of the Bible, as even those with a limited knowledge of the Bible will recognize the name and maybe have some idea of who Herod was. One of the most popular stories, known even to non-Christians, is “Herod’s slaying of the Innocents,” a gruesome part of the Christmas story. Others who may know a little bit more about the Bible will know of the accounts of Herod and John the Baptist, Herod and Jesus, Herod who was eaten by worms and maybe even Herod and Paul. Although Herod doesn’t appear in the Bible very often, it is at critical junctures in New Testament history that readers come across the name, and a casual reader of the Bible might incorrectly assume that each time the name “Herod” is mentioned, the Bible is referring to the same person. In fact, there were actually six different people in the New Testament who were part of this dynasty of “Herods.” From before the birth of Christ until the destruction of Jerusalem, the Herodian Dynasty was the ruling family in Palestine. The family of Herod came from Idumea, so they were considered by some Jews to not be qualified to sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem. However, the close connections of the family with the current Roman emperors and those who were to become emperors kept them in power for almost 100 years. The dynasty started with a celebrated war hero and ended with strong rumors of an incestuous relationship between brother and sister. The power struggles among the aristocracy and the discontent of the populace also characterized the political scene behind the events of New Testament Palestine. The Kingdom of Herod the Great: The History of the Herodian Dynasty in Ancient Israel During the Life of Jesus looks at the life and dynasty of the Judean client king through both Scripture and historical analysis. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about Herod the Great’s dynasty like never before, in no time at all.

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