

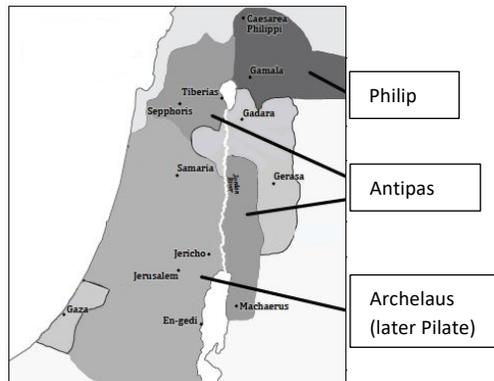
**A Tale of Two Fears**

Aaron Russo

Matthew 14:1–12

Main Idea: In a wicked world, submitting to or resisting wickedness is a matter of whom you fear.

I. Herod: Fear of man surrenders to and embraces wickedness.



II. John: Fear of God upholds righteousness at any expense.

III. Jesus: Fear of God points us to Christ as our refuge.

Suggested Psalm: 1 & 2; 118

Questions to consider:

- What forms does fear of man take for you—approval, reputation, career security, comfort, avoidance of conflict?
  - In what situations would it cost you something tangible to speak or live truthfully?
  - Is fear of man always obvious, or can it disguise itself as wisdom, prudence, or kindness?
- What is the connection between personal holiness and fearlessness?
  - How does privately cultivating a fear of God (eternal perspective) practically impact your public testimony?