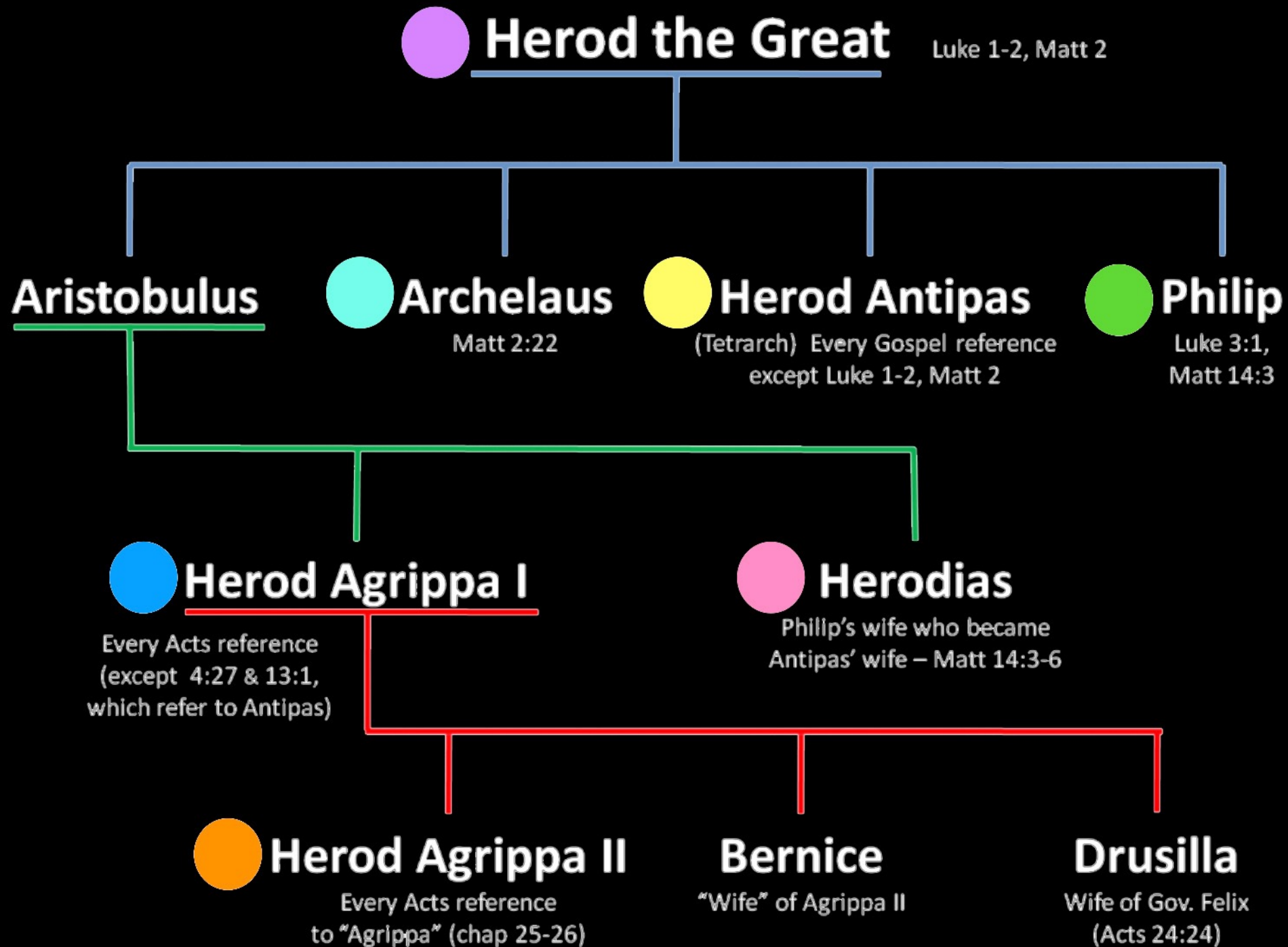




THE GOOD
AND THE BAD
THE UGLY

CHARACTER STUDIES



Matthew 2:1-23

WISE MEN VISIT THE KING

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of **King Herod**, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him."

³When **King Herod** heard this, he was deeply disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ So he assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people and asked them where the Messiah would be born.



Matthew 2:1-23

⁵"In Bethlehem of Judea," they told him,
"because this is what was written by the prophet:
⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah:
Because out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."



Matthew 2:1-23

⁹After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.



Matthew 2:1-23

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

¹³After they were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Get up! Take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. For Herod is about to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and escaped to Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until Herod's death, so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled: Out of Egypt I called my Son.



Matthew 2:1-23

THE MASSACRE OF THE INNOCENTS

¹⁶Then **Herod**, when he realized that he had been outwitted by the wise men, flew into a rage. He gave orders to massacre all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, in keeping with the time he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

¹⁸A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children;
and she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more.



Matthew 2:1-23

THE RETURN TO NAZARETH

¹⁹After **Herod** died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, because those who intended to kill the child are dead."
²¹So he got up, took the child and his mother, and entered the land of Israel.



Matthew 2:1-23

ARCHELAUS – HEROD THE GREAT'S SON

²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, he withdrew to the region of Galilee. ²³Then he went and settled in a town called Nazareth to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.



Luke 3:1-2

THE MESSIAH'S HERALD

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, while Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, God's word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness.



Matthew 14:1-12

JOHN THE BAPTIST BEHEADED

¹At that time **Herod the tetrarch (Antipas)** heard the report about Jesus.

²"This is John the Baptist," he told his servants. "He has been raised from the dead, and that's why miraculous powers are at work in him."

³For **Herod** had arrested John, chained him, and put him in prison on account of **Herodias**, his brother **Philip's** wife, ⁴since John had been telling him, "It's not lawful for you to have her." ⁵Though **Herod** wanted to kill John, he feared the crowd since they regarded John as a prophet.

THE UGLY

Matthew 14:1-12

⁶When Herod's birthday celebration came, Herodias's daughter danced before them and pleased Herod. ⁷So he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. ⁸Prompted by her mother, she answered, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter." ⁹Although the king regretted it, he commanded that it be granted because of his oaths and his guests. ¹⁰So he sent orders and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. ¹²Then his disciples came, removed the corpse, buried it, and went and reported to Jesus.

THE UGLY

Acts 4:27-30

²⁷"For, in fact, in this city both **Herod** and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, ²⁸to do whatever your hand and your will had predestined to take place. ²⁹And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰while you stretch out your hand for healing, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.

THE UGLY

Acts 12:1-5

JAMES MARTYRED AND PETER JAILED

¹About that time **King Herod** violently attacked some who belonged to the church, ²and he executed James, John's brother, with the sword. ³When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter too, during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. ⁴After the arrest, he put him in prison and assigned four squads of four soldiers each to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. ⁵So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was praying fervently to God for him.

THE UGLY

Acts 12:6-10

PETER RESCUED

⁶When **Herod** was about to bring him out for trial, that very night Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while the sentries in front of the door guarded the prison.

⁷Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell. Striking Peter on the side, he woke him up and said, "Quick, get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists. ⁸"Get dressed," the angel told him, "and put on your sandals." And he did. "Wrap your cloak around you," he told him, "and follow me."



Acts 12:6-10

⁹So he went out and followed, and he did not know that what the angel did was really happening, but he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰After they passed the first and second guards, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened to them by itself. They went outside and passed one street, and suddenly the angel left him.



Acts 12:20-25

HEROD'S DEATH

²⁰Herod had been very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. Together they presented themselves before him. After winning over Blastus, who was in charge of the king's bedroom, they asked for peace, because their country was supplied with food from the king's country. ²¹On an appointed day, dressed in royal robes and seated on the throne, Herod delivered a speech to them.



Acts 12:20-25

²²The assembled people began to shout, "It's the voice of a god and not of a man!" ²³At once an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give the glory to God, and he was eaten by worms and died.

²⁴But the word of God spread and multiplied. ²⁵After they had completed their relief mission, Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem, taking along John who was called Mark.



Acts 26:1-3

PAUL'S DEFENSE BEFORE AGRIPPA

¹Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and began his defense: ²"I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, ³especially since you are very knowledgeable about all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

THE UGLY

Acts 26:24-29

AGRIPPA NOT QUITE PERSUADED

²⁴As he was saying these things in his defense, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, "You're out of your mind, Paul! Too much study is driving you mad."

²⁵But Paul replied, "I'm not out of my mind, most excellent Festus. On the contrary, I'm speaking words of truth and good judgment. ²⁶For the king knows about these matters, and I can speak boldly to him. For I am convinced that none of these things has escaped his notice, since this was not done in a corner. ²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe."



Acts 26:24-29

²⁸**Agrippa** said to Paul, "Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?"

²⁹"I wish before God," replied Paul, "that whether easily or with difficulty, not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am—except for these chains."



Lessons From the Herod Dynasty for those in Civil Authority



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against the Will and Power of God.



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3. Justice is eternal - God sees your motivation and heart.



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Mark 8:36–37 ³⁶For what does it benefit someone to gain the whole world and yet lose his life? ³⁷What can anyone give in exchange for his life?



Lessons From the Herod Dynasty for Christians Today

THE UGLY

Lessons From the Herod Dynasty for Christians Today

1. God is in control?!



Lessons From the Herod Dynasty for Christians Today

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2. Gospel witness and ministry must continue regardless of the political environment.



Lessons From the Herod Dynasty for Christians Today

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Lessons From the Herod Dynasty for Christians Today

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4. No one is beyond the Love of God and the Power of the Gospel to Save.





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