



STARTING IN JERUSALEM

LESSON 8

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VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Acts 1:7-9** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 - **AUTHORITY: *EXOUSIA*: the right to act**
 1. given by someone to someone
 2. works within certain specified rules
 3. has established parameters (domain)
 - **POWER: *DUNAMIS*: the ability to act**
- AUTHORITY AND POWER WORK TOGETHER

PETER IN JOPPA

- Acts 9:43 And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.
- The centurion was stationed in Caesarea



ABOUT CORNELIUS

- Centurion: in charge of 100 of the 600 men in a cohort; a cohort was 1/10 of a legion
- Acts 10:2 ...a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the Jewish people and prayed to God continually.
- Acts 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"
- Acts 10:9-10 On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;
- Trance: *ekstasis*: displacement of the mind



DANGER OF PRESUPPOSITIONS

- Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- Peter's vision: Acts 10:15-16 Again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.
- For Jewish people to understand the grafting in of the Gentiles was a major obstacle to Christianity's early spread

WHERE HE SENDS ME....

- Acts 10:21-23 Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?" They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you." So he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.



PREJUDICE DIES SLOWLY

- Acts 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality..."
- Galatians 2:11-13 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.
- **Allow no barriers: not language, culture, prejudice, geography, economic standing, educational level**

11: PETER TELLS THE STORY

- Acts 11:2-3 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."
- Acts 11:18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."
- **Isaiah 53:11**
By His knowledge the Righteous One,
My Servant, will justify the many,
As He will bear their iniquities.
- Malachi 1:11 "For from the rising of the sun even to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense is going to be offered to My name, and a grain offering that is pure; for My name will be great among the nations," says the Lord of hosts.



FIRST OF THE TWELVE MARTYRED

- Acts 12:1-2 Now about that time Herod the king laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them. And he had James the brother of John put to death with a sword.
- Four squads: *tetradion*: group of four
- Acts 12:6-7 On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.
- Acts 12:19 When Herod had searched for him and had not found him, he examined the guards and ordered that they be led away to execution

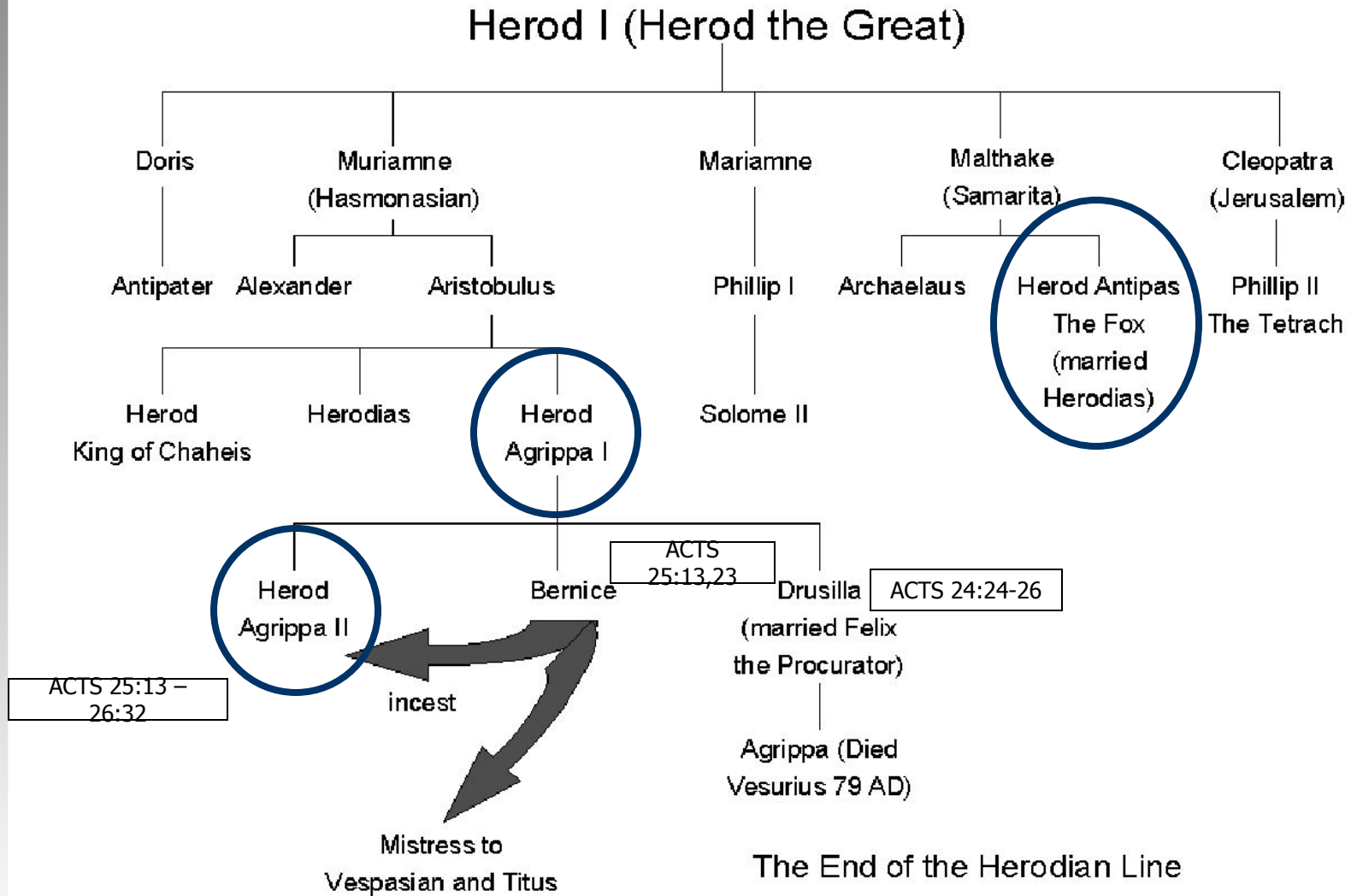
ABOUT HERODS

- Herod the Great: slaughter of innocents
- Herod Antipas: Jesus trial; executed John the Baptist

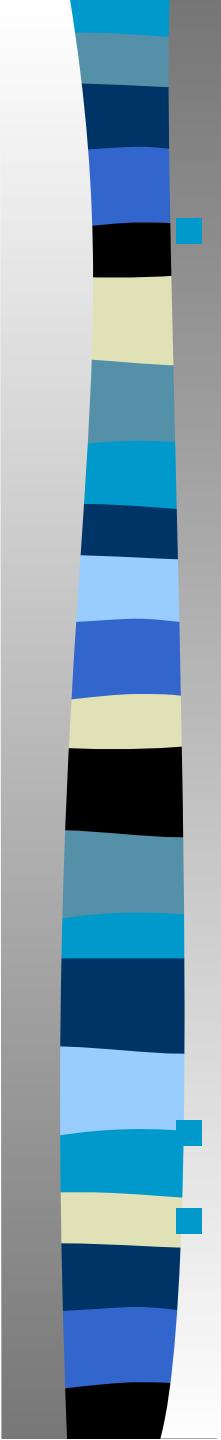
Mark 6:17-18 For Herod himself had sent and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her. For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."

- Herod Agrippa I murdered James, brother of John
- Herod Agrippa II judged Paul

THE HERODS



OVERT PRIDE



Acts 12:20-23 Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain, they were asking for peace, because their country was fed by the king's country. On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them. The people kept crying out, "The voice of a god and not of a man!" And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Eaten by worms: *skolekobrotos*

Josephus reports that he was carried to his palace and died after five days at the age of 54.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Prejudice: against Gentiles; against people who aren't exactly who we thought they should be

Mark 6:2-3 When the Sabbath came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.

Pride of position, accomplishment, education

Romans 15:15-17...because of the grace that was given me from God, to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things