

The reign of Herods

Herod the Great (c. 70-4 BCE):

an Idumean friend of Julius Caesar, forced to become “Jewish” to gain rule over the region. He had strong Roman support and equally strong opposition from the Pharisees. He engaged in a tremendous building program throughout Judea, including the expansion of the Temple and the construction of Masada and the royal palace, the Antonia, named for his benefactor, Mark Antony

Herod Archelaus (c. 23 BCE-18 CE):

reigned over Samaria, Judea and Idumea from 4 BCE-6 CE. His pursuit of Rome’s approval of his authority is slyly narrated in Luke 19.12-27

Herod Antipas (c. 20 BC – 39 CE):

reigned over Galilee and Perea, with the title of “tetrarch”. Was responsible for the death of John the Baptist. Build the lakeside town of Tiberias on an abandoned necropolis (cemetery), naming it after his patron, emperor Tiberius.

Herod Philip (c. 26 BCE – 34 CE):

reigned over Iturea and Trachonitis, as both Josephus and Luke note (Luke 3.1), with the title “tetrarch.”

