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A Biographical Study of Herod the Great

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Herod the Great

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The distress of Herod — “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him” (Matt 2:1-3).
- II. The demand of Herod
 - A. Requesting information from the chief priests — “And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born” (Matt. 2:4).
 - B. Receiving information from the chief priests — “And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel” (Matt. 2:5-6).
- III. The deception of Herod — “Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also” (Matt. 2:7-8).
- IV. The destruction by Herod — “Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men” (Matt. 2:16).
- V. The death of Herod — “But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life” (Matt. 2:19-20).

STATISTICS

Father: Herod Antipater

Spouses: Doris, Mariamne I, Mariamne II, Malthace, Cleopatria

Sons: Herod Archelaus (Matt. 2:22), Herod Antipas (Matt. 14:1-12), Herod Philip (Matt. 14:3)

First mention: Matthew 2:1

Final mention: Matthew 2:19

Meaning of his name: “Seed of a hero”

Frequency of his name: Referred to nine times

Biblical books mentioning him: One book (Matthew)

Occupation: King over Israel

Important fact about his life: He was the king who attempted to murder the infant Jesus.