

2020-2021 Bible Study

#27

4/13/21

Reminder

- We will not meet for Bible Study on **Tuesday, April 27** or **May 18**
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Review of our Last Class

- Last week, we started with an overview of what I called the “theology of sacrifice”
- Then, we saw Paul conclude his trip to Corinth (where he wrote the letter to the Romans)
- This was followed with the beginning of his journey toward Jerusalem, overland through Macedonia, then via ship to Asia, where he spend 7 days in Troas culminating in an all-night Eucharistic celebration
- We saw a young man who, after falling asleep, fell out of a third story window and was presumed dead
- Paul revived him, then completed his homily, finished the Mass, and prepared to sail toward Miletus just south of Ephesus the next day

Review of our Last Class (Cont)

- At that point, Paul invited the elders from Ephesus for a tearful farewell
- Paul eventually arrived at Caesarea (where he stayed with the deacon Philip), before going to Jerusalem
- This marked the end of Paul's third missionary journey
- Upon his arrival at Jerusalem, he met with Bishop James and the elders, who told him that many Jewish Christians wanted to kill him for his teaching that they no longer needed to abide by the Law

Review of our Last Class (Cont)

- We observed the riot that broke out in the Temple, (leading to an attempted stoning) which had to be broken up by the Roman troops, led by a Tribunal
- This section ended with Paul asking to speak to his attackers just before he was taken into the Roman barracks for his protection

Acts 22-28

Acts 22

- **Acts 22** provides Paul's defensive argument to the crowd in *Jerusalem* just before he is placed in protective custody by the Romans
- The crowd rioted in response, and the Romans took him into the barracks for questioning (under scourging)
- At this point, Paul plays the "Roman Citizen" card causing great concern for the Roman officials
- They then demanded that the chief priests and all the council come to them to interrogate Paul

Acts 23

- **Acts 23** Paul presented his defense to the council (**Acts 23:2-6**), and then his eventual move to the Roman providential city of *Caesarea*
- When they arrive Paul was brought before the *Sanhedrin* where he again addressed the group
- When Paul discovered that there were both *Pharisees* and *Sadducees* in the group, he appealed to the *Pharisees* indicating that he was being attacked because he hoped for the resurrection from the dead
- Father reminded us that early on (when the Christians began preaching about the resurrection of Jesus), it became an issue between the *Pharisees* and the *Sadducees*
- Once again, this produced a riot so violent that the Roman soldiers had to go in and rescue Paul
- The next night, Paul, in a dream was informed that he was to bear witness to the Lord in **Rome**

Acts 24

- The next day, the High Priest came to *Caesarea* with some elders and laid the charges before *Felix* (12th Roman Governor)
- Paul was brought in and again presented his defense
- *Felix* sidestepped any decision and told the Jews that when *Lysias* (the tribune*) came, he would decide the case
- It would seem that every time Paul spoke it produced an adverse reaction and the Romans did not know what to do with him
- They were repeatedly faced with the Jews wanting to kill him even though they could not find anything wrong with what he had said
- They therefore kept him in prison since he was a Roman citizen in need of protection

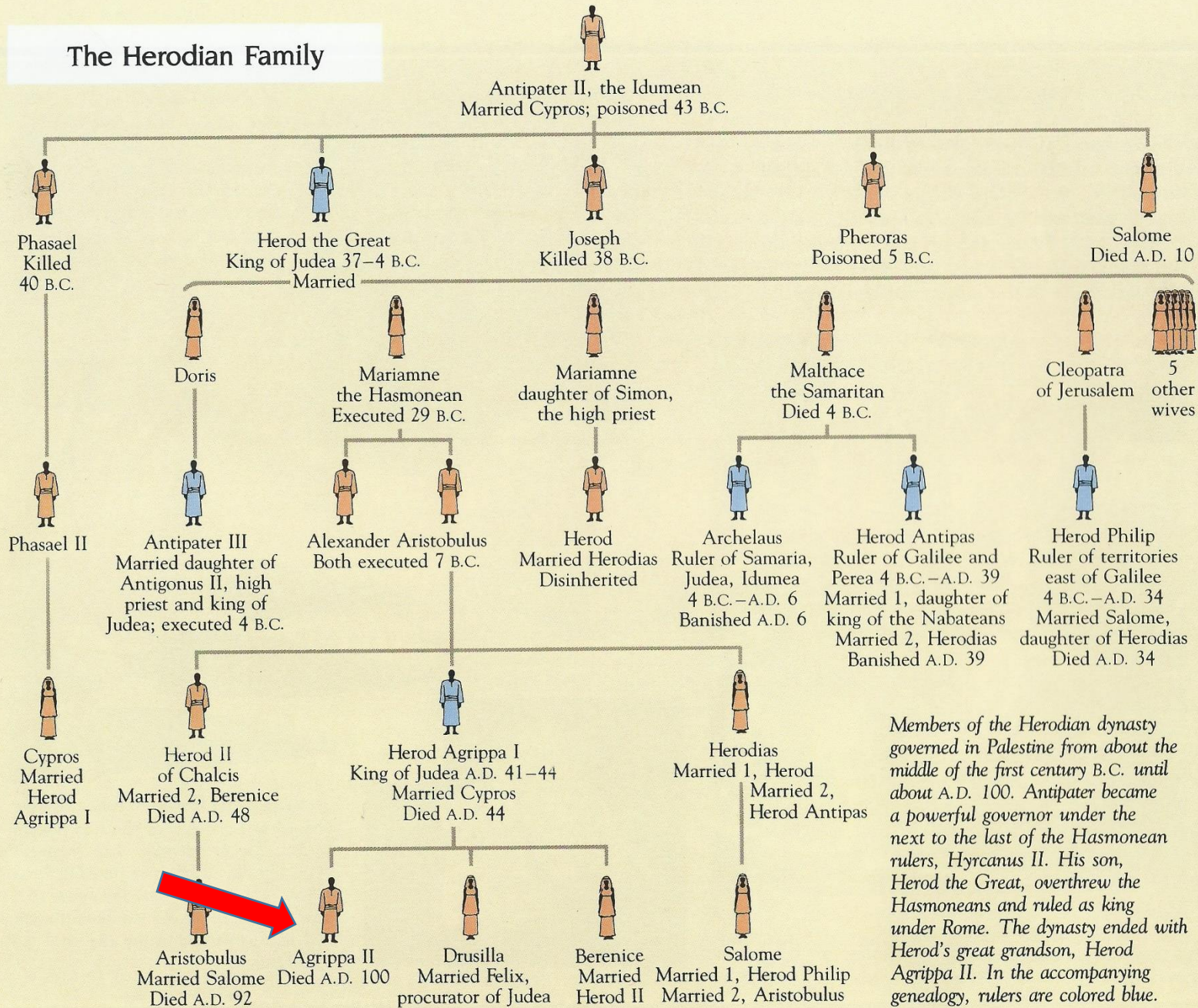
Acts 24 (Cont)

- A few days later, *Felix* brought his wife (a Jewess) to listen to Paul speak about Jesus, and was so concerned that he sent him back to prison
- Hoping Paul had money, *Felix* frequently talked to him
- After two years, *Felix* was replaced by *Porcius Festus* as governor (13th Roman Governor)

Acts 25

- Festus went to *Jerusalem* to speak with the Jews about Paul and they asked that he be brought to *Jerusalem* for trial (they planned to ambush him in route)
- Festus invited them to come to *Caesarea* instead
- During this encounter, Paul defended himself and then demanded (as a Roman citizen) to be tried by *Caesar* in *Rome* (**Acts 25:8-12**)
- Festus agreed to this demand
- A few days later, King *Agrippa* and his wife *Bernice* came to *Caesarea* and *Festus* asked them to hear from Paul to help him prepare a written request to *Caesar*

The Herodian Family



Members of the Herodian dynasty governed in Palestine from about the middle of the first century B.C. until about A.D. 100. Antipater became a powerful governor under the next to the last of the Hasmonean rulers, Hyrcanus II. His son, Herod the Great, overthrew the Hasmoneans and ruled as king under Rome. The dynasty ended with Herod's great grandson, Herod Agrippa II. In the accompanying genealogy, rulers are colored blue.

Acts 26 -27

- At the conclusion of this interview, all agreed that Paul was not guilty of any crime and could have been released, but he had to be sent to *Rome* as he requested
- At this point it was decided to send Paul to Rome under the protection of Julius, a centurion of the Augustine Cohort
- We are presented a detailed itinerary of Paul voyage including being shipwrecked