



Antipas, Herodias, & Salome
The Execution of John the Baptist

Brevis Historicus Dramatis Personae

as relating to Jesus Time

Herodian

Antipater the Idumaeon 114-43 BCE

Originator and founder of the Herodian Dynasty.

Father of Herod 1st (the Great) & Grandfather of Antipas Herod ruler of Galilee in Jesus Time.

Bureaucrat within the Jewish Idumaeon Hasmonean government. Then marries Cypros.

Princess Cypros (100-56BCE Approximated)

Originator and founder of the Herodian Dynasty.

Mother of Herod 1st (the Great) & Grandmother of Antipas Herod ruler of Galilee in Jesus Time.

Born a Nabatean Arab Princess then marries the politician Antipater.

Herod the 1st (The Great) 72-4BCE

The 2nd son of Antipater & Cypros. The name Herod means “song or ode of a hero.”

Raised as his mother’s understudy and her heir was appointed King of Israel by Rome in 37 BCE.

Herod Antipas 20BCE-39AD/CE

Son of Herod 1st (the Great) & Grandson of Antipater became Governor of Galilee in 4BCE

Raised in each Rome and Israel as a future Herodian Governor.

Princess Herodias 15BCE - unknown after 40 AD/CE

Granddaughter of Herod 1st & illegal wife of Antipas in Jesus Time. She is the mother of Salome.

Princess Salome the 3rd 14AD/CE – unknown.

Princess & Great Granddaughter of Herod 1st & eventual widow in Jesus Time of the Tetrarch Phillip.

Yes, her literal birth father’s brother (uncle) and also a step uncle meaning another brother of Antipas.

Roman

Gaius Julius “Caesar” Implying Emperor 100-44 BCE

Roman General during the Gallic wars then becoming a statesman member of the first Triumvirate a ruling council then became the Republics first “Dictator” (for 5years) after defeating Pompey in civil war.

Legionary General Pompey 106-48 BCE

Son in Law of Julius Caesar & after the death of his wife his relationship with his former father-in-law cools especially when Julius intends on becoming a “Dictator.”

Pompey was the Roman General who when aided by Herod Antipater crushed and conquered Israel.

Cleopatra VII Thea Philopator 70-30 BCE The name Cleopatra means glory of her father who named her Queen.

Egyptian Queen (Pharaoh) the last Greek Macedonian Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt.

Mother of Caesarian a love child by Julius Caesar and yet future wife of Roman General Marc Anthony.

Legionary General Marc Anthony 83-30BCE

Related to and chief General of Julius Caesar. After Julius’s death was appointed on the second

Triumvirate where he met and began each a political and romantic relationship with Cleopatra.

Marc Anthony ultimately abandoned Octavian’s sister Octavia his first wife and marries Cleopatra.

Octavian Gaius Julius “Augustus Caesar” 63BCE- 14AD/CE The name Augustus means religious majestic gain.

Became Rome’s first official Roman Emperor- no more Republic, after the assistance of Herod the 1st in defeating Cleopatra/Anthony. Born the great nephew and later adopted as son & heir of Julius.

Antipas, Herodias, & Salome

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

During this time Jesus had already sent out His Apostles 2x2 in Ministry before Him into the remote rural areas of Galilee. This was not only to train His Apostles but too also gather these ‘lost sheep’ of Israel. These lost sheep were totally abandoned and disdained by the Pharisee’s. It also came to pass that John the Baptist the last of the Old Testament style Prophets who was immensely popular in Israel who had been previously arrested will now be executed by Herod Antipas.

Again, here the Gospel of Mark may be the shortest of the Gospels, but it is the most direct to the point of the “Synoptic” or common view (that of a man being Divine) Scriptural accounts of how the Christ is Jesus. Not only are we going to stay within John Mark’s recordings from the Apostle Peters account of the death of the Baptizer, but we will also be exclusively using the NASB.

Why? The NASB is direct word for word Scriptural translation without the Ole pre-Shakespearean style English added in. Meaning here the Gospel Book of Mark and the NASB Bible version when used together not only have great detail but are also very easy to read.

Our Scripture : Mark 6: 17-29 NASB

✝ For Herod himself had sent men and had John arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, because he had married her.

Herod Antipas

Ok, to understand Herod Antipas we must first understand the Herod’s.

To understand the Herod’s, we have to know who they were.

Antipas, was a son of Israel’s Roman appointed King (40 BCE) Herod the Great.

The youngest surviving son of Herod and his mother “Malthake” or in Greek “Malthace” was a Samaritan.

Get that?

Meaning right away we can deduce two things: First not only was Antipas a son of the dreaded Herod the Great, but he was also ½ Samaritan. Israel despised no one more than the ½ Jewish Samaritans.

Also, while we are on the topic of Antipas's lineage Herod the Great- Antipas’s father, had always claimed to be Jewish in an attempt to garner favor with the Pharisee’s. However, Herod the Great was in fact raised as a Jew, but he was not born one. Regardless of his title and or royal bloodlines.

In actuality; he was Idumaeen. (south of Judea) So thusly begins our explanation of Herod Antipas.

Herod the Great was born in 72 BCE in Idumea which was south of Judea near the area that we call Petra.

Yes, that very same Petra with the stone city featured in many Hollywood films such as Indiana Jones.

Herod the Great's father was “Antipater” a high-ranking official in the Idumaeen Hasmonean government.

Antipater- a gov’t official, then officially married a royal, Herod the Great's mother. (Antipas’s Grandmother)

Her name was “Cypros”, and she was born a Nabatean Arab Princess (100-56BCE) from Petra. (Arabia/Idumea)

Meaning Antipater, Herod Antipas’s grand father was a descendant of Esau, while his grandmother Cypros was most likely & tis assumed to be of Edomite lineage.

Idumea/Petra had been previously conquered by John Hyrcanus the Hasmonaean Jewish High Priest in 105BCE. This was 33 years prior to the birth of Herod Antipater. So, later Antipater with his gov’t titles and by having married an Arabic royal blood line wife, long story short Antipater being Antipas’s Grandfather by job and marriage began to gain Roman favor within Israel- an independent Jewish nation.

After some time had passed; Antipater, the founder of the Herodian Dynasty who was Antipas's grandfather, then betrayed the Jewish people when he assisted the Roman General Pompey in 63 BCE in conquering Judah/Judea/Idumea for Rome. (His son the future Herod the Great would have been 9 years old)

Then Antipater later betrayed General Pompey when in 47 BCE he led 3K troops from Judea first to resupply & then rescue Julius Caesar in Alexandria Egypt. At this time Julius Caesar and General Pompey were in an all out Roman civil war. Caesar then made Antipater an official Roman citizen and exempted him personally from ever paying Roman taxes. (Likewise, any of Antipater's children on down)

Ok another ruler at this time during Rome's conquest of Egypt by which was at the behest & request of a Greek appointed Egyptian Queen. Yes, Cleopatra. She having been betrayed by her own younger co regent brother/husband Ptolemy XIV. (Greek King of the Ptolemaic Kingdom of Egypt)

So, deposed Cleopatra then smuggled herself wrapped in a carpet to Julius and began a passionate love affair with Caesar. She then gained Caesar's help at retaking her Egyptian Throne but this time for Rome. Herod Antipater eventually became King of Judea & Cleopatra co Queen of Egypt each by Rome.

At least until Cleopatra had her own brother- her co regent murdered. Long live the Queen! (Pharaoh)

Now as Antipater was consolidating his power in Judea by the gratitude of the Romans, likewise, so was Cleopatra doing exactly the very same thing in Egypt with Rome but she was going even further. She deliberately had a royal affair resulting in a love child. A male with royal title and prestige because his mother was Queen Cleopatra and his father despite a great age difference (30 years) was none other than Julius Caesar. (Julius Caesar official recognized Cleopatra's son Caesarion as his own in Rome on 46 BCE)

When Cleopatra named her child with Caesar "Caesarion" with her as his legal guardian and protector with the boy born not only as a future Egyptian King (Pharaoh) but also as a potential Roman Caesar these implications shook the entire Roman world.

You see up until this point Julius Caesar had no son and he had not as of yet legally named an heir. Julius Caesar by Roman Law had to name a grown capable heir so he adopted & then later willed Octavian his great nephew as his heir in 44 BCE. Get that?

Rome feared turmoil with Cleopatra's son being Julius Caesar's son for all of the obvious implications. Because Julius had only one child previously who had survived into adulthood & her name was Julia. Despite their great age difference Julia was married to General Pompey. Yes, the very same Pompey. Whom had conquered Israel and then installed Herod Antipater, Antipas's grandfather as Chief Minister. The official starting point or precursor to the Herodian Dynasty. Please remember this.

The tragedy was Pompey and Julia were greatly devoted to each other and when he lost an election in 54 BCE the ensuing riots caused great distress to Julia sending her into premature birth labor by which she died and doubly sad for all of Rome their child also passed a few days later.

After the death of Julia- Pompey's wife, being Julius's Caesar's daughter, the relationship between Pompey and Caesar cooled. Pompey then had anti corruption and bribery measures passed in the Roman Senate to curb his ex-father in laws ambitions. Julius responded by invading Rome with his Legion. Naturally General Pompey defended and civil war was ignited between father & ex-son in law. Julius Caesar only survived Pompey's siege of Alexandria in 47 BCE solely because of Antipater Herod. Then Caesar despite a great numerical disadvantage ultimately triumphed over General Pompey who was later murdered in Egypt by his own defeated allies. (Thusly setting the stage for exiled Cleopatra's return)

Making "Caesarian" Cleopatra's son one of the two living legal heirs of Julius Caesar. (Caesarean/Octavian)

Again, Caesar had officially adopted Octavian his grand nephew as his son legally in his will. After the Pompey/Julius Caesar Civil War, Julius became Dictator & he had to "Will" an heir at that time. The Roman Senate greatly feared yet another Civil War. (This time with Cleopatra/Octavian)

Then Cleopatra met & made another famous Roman friend. The Great Roman General Marc Anthony.

After the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44BCE, 3 years later on 41BCE Legionary General Marc Anthony found himself doubly powerful because just like Caesar before him- Anthony, was likewise now himself officially politically aligned while also in a personal romantic relationship with Queen (Pharaoh) Cleopatra. After the demise of Julius and with Cleopatra being the mother and guardian of "Caesarian" one of the two official heirs of Julius Caesars, it was actually the Roman General Marc Anthony who was serving on what was called the "Second Triumvirate." A temporary ruling commission of 3 formed after Caesar's death comprised of Octavian, Marc Anthony, & Marcus Lepidus.

The Triumvirate had requested for Cleopatra to come to Tarsus Cilicia (birthplace of Saul/Paul) where Anthony was personally present for her to pledge her formal allegiance to Rome in person since Julius Caesar was now dead. Being a Greek Queen was she only loyal to Julius? Or was she also loyal to Rome?

This was the question needing to be answered when Cleopatra arrived to Tarsus in style!

She made a grand entrance into Tarsus on a decorated river barge dressed as Venus.

The Roman G*dess of love.

Anthony was smitten and deals were made on both sides of this new flourishing royal relationship.

First things first; Marc Anthony was told by Cleopatra to execute Arsinoe her younger sister immediately.

Arsinoe had previously opposed Cleopatra's Roman alliance (with Julius Caesar) and had led an uprising.

A successful uprising in which Cleopatra had fled to Palestine then reunited & ultimately returned with Julius Caesar by her side. Then Arsinoe, Cleopatra's sister- after being quelled by Julius Caesar, Arsinoe was then confined/incarcerated within the Temple of Artemis in Ephesus. (Asia Minor Turkey)

Get that? With Julius Caesar now dead, Arsinoe was now more than ever a danger to Cleopatra's throne.

Anthony had her put to death. This was major scandalous news considering Arsinoe was spared & exiled by a Caesar. Meaning by every Roman custom & tradition she was forever confined but safe.

In return by literally securing Cleopatra's Throne, Cleopatra then supported meaning she funded with her vast wealth Marc Anthony's Legions to fight another internal Roman civil war.

Of course, under Cleopatra's further demand that once victorious- Anthony, would then fully restore all of the eastern Egyptian territory previously taken by Rome while leaving her alone as Queen.

Now with Cleopatra independently financing Marc Anthony's Roman Legions, each the Roman Senate & Octavian correctly viewed this as Cleopatra's and Marc Anthony's power play. Civil War was in store!

Anthony seized upon the opportunity by making what he thought was his move, but in actuality this was Cleopatra's long well-planned end game move as in all in. Become Queen of Rome while ending Rome as a Republic and establishing it as an Empire with her in charge or fail and die.

How serious was she? Cleopatra planned on moving the capitol from Rome to Alexandria Egypt.

Also to change Rome from a Republic to an Empire with her as Queen and her son Caesarian (Julius) as heir. They together Cleopatra/Anthony had ignited a Roman civil war against Octavian, the Roman Senate, & the Republic of Rome.

Legions and leaders each chose their side!

Octavian was rightfully incensed & vengeful against all who had killed his uncle Julius Caesar which also meant by default they had plotted against him as well.

Now it gets even more complicated; because in actuality it was Marc Anthony who had defeated many of the conspirators who had assassinated Julius Caesar. Anthony had used his authority within the Triumvirate to hire "proscriptions" outright mercenary posse outlaws to kill Julius Caesar's assassins.

Why? Not only because Julius was his commanding Caesar, but also Julius was his wife's uncle.

Get that? Yes, General Marc Anthony married Octavian's sister Octavia for peace & political position.

All the while Cleopatra was pregnant by him, for which he later betrays Octavia and returns to Cleopatra. Octavia in mercy eventually raised Anthony/Cleopatra's 3 children. Two sons lost to history in Rome, & one daughter Cleopatra Selene. Whom later marries King Juba of Mauretania (Morocco) becoming the last surviving Ptolemaic (Greek Heritage) raised as a Royal Roman ruler by Caesar Octavian Augustus's sister.

So, with Julius Caesar's death it was literally a total royal, social, moral, political, and military mess. Now just what the Roman Senate had feared the most was a reality. Another unfortunate Civil War. The Roman Senate had conspired to the point of them having to murder Julius Caesar all in a failed attempt at avoiding another civil war. However, it was the Roman Senate's assassination of Julius Caesar that ultimately did start the war. Fully enraging and engaging all sides. (Ides of March 15 44BCE or unlucky just like Friday the 13th for us, which has Christian origin- Jesus met on the supposed Jewish Friday night with His 12 Apostles and was Crucified) Ok, now all of this finally brings us to our next Roman turn of events as for the fate of the Herod's.

As in Why?

Despite all of the Herod's infamous violence, corruption, & greed that Rome remained loyal to them.

You see Herod Antipater; Antipas's grandfather was now dead.

Herod, soon to be known as "Herod the Great" was now on his father Antipater's throne.

Herod the Great previously in the past had a few run ins with Octavian with Herod even having publicly spoken against Octavian while Julius Caesar was still alive.

But now when push had come to shove in an all-out winner takes all civil war within the Roman Empire, a war that Rome feared would take decades to complete & then who knows? Who would win?

So, Herod the Great then takes a page from his own father Antipater's past.

At the right moment, at the right time, Herod likewise sends Israel's army into battle in Egypt. (Alexandria)

But this time not in Cleopatra & Marc Anthony's support as his father Antipater had done and as all had expected from Herod including Cleopatra. Because in an effort to sideline Herod- Marc Anthony upon Julius Caesar's death had wisely publicly proclaimed that a Herod would always remain as ruler in Israel.

Anthony did this because he knew that Herod had already previously spoken against Octavian and having been offended, Octavian had issued no such promise that a Herod will continue to rule in Israel.

But in a surprising move to everyone especially to Octavian himself, Herod first resupplied the Roman Senate Legions fighting against the combined forces of Cleopatra & Mark Anthony, while he also sent the Israeli soldiers to fight in support of Octavian's Legions even under Octavian's command.

Of course, Octavian having previously won the famous sea battle of Actium Greece the year prior (31BCE) had to have weighed heavily upon Herod's deceptive decision at switching sides against Cleopatra.

Not with 3K troops as his father Antipater had previously done for Cleopatra, but with everything and everyone Herod the Great could muster and march in one brilliant politically savvy single strike.

Josephus the Jewish historian claims it was well over one million Jews Herod the Great had pressed into battle crushing Marc Anthony and Cleopatra in a single stroke much to Rome's benefit & quite surprising pleasure. But was it a million Jewish troops?

Probably not, most likely an exaggerated number but certainly a lot more than 3K and well more than enough to make Octavian suddenly victorious in only about ten years time & not decades plural.

As a direct result of Herod; Octavian in 27BCE was confirmed by the Roman Senate as "Augustus" Caesar.

Rome's first "autocratic" or absolute Emperor.

The Roman Republic was now gone forever. The Empire of Rome was complete.

Octavian now victorious had gotten what it was that Cleopatra had so brilliantly & desperately wanted.

The funny thing was this: there is no historical record that Octavian had ever intended to remove Cleopatra from rule in Egypt. She just wanted more- she wanted it all & nearly had it all save for Herod.

So now you know How? & Why? The Herod's became rulers of Israel forever. By Roman gratitude.

Not once but twice, being two generations did a father and son- both Herod's, did assist Rome in battle.

First by helping the Romans crush the Greeks for Cleopatra, & then later ending Cleopatra & Marc Anthony during the inevitable Roman civil war that ended the Republic and an Empire was born.

Each assisted by the cunning of a Herod twice shaping the direction & fate of the entire Roman Empire.

Of course, following Cleopatra's & Marc Anthony's defeat and with both of their subsequent suicides, "Caesarion" Cleopatra's & Julius Caesar's son- was captured and later executed on August 29th 30 BCE. Because Rome feared yet another future civil war at Caesarion's behest. So, Octavian was officially advised that it had now been proven that two heirs of Julius Caesar could quote: "not share the world." Ok, Historically we are getting there.

As for the prison itself that Herod Antipas had John the Baptist arrested and confined to- this was his favorite summer residence known as the fortress/palace "Machaerus." (means sword in Greek)

Machaerus was on the eastern side of the Dead Sea south of Bethlehem built atop Mount Veridis & was originally constructed prior to Herod Antipater by the Hasmonean King Alexander Jannaeus.

Machaerus was originally destroyed by one of Pompey's Roman Generals in 57 BCE when Rome originally took Israel.

Machaerus was later rebuilt by Herod the Great and in 30BCE it was even more fortified and luxurious with bigger walls, mosaic floors, colonnades, bathhouses, & having 2 large meeting halls with multiple defense towers, courtyards, and complete with not one but two dungeons. (The deeper terribly dark and hot)

Machaerus was inherited by Antipas upon his father's death in 4BCE.

Machaerus continued to belong to Antipas's as he ruled until 39AD/CE.

Then the Fortress/Palace was ultimately again destroyed a second time by Rome in 72 AD.

The 2nd time Rome destroyed Machaerus it took some time with siege walls needing to be built by a Legion. Ironically during the Byzantine period; a Christian Church was built upon this site.

This Church was renamed "Machaberos" which means executioners blade in honor of John the Baptist. Additionally, my favorite Jewish/Christian culture & historical author has this to say about the fortress:

" As we look down into its hot darkness, we shudder in realizing that this terrible keep had, for nigh ten months, been the prison of that son of the free wilderness, the bold herald of the coming kingdom, the humble, earnest, self-denying John the Baptist."

Alfred Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah. 1883.

Continuing

✝ For John (Baptist) had been saying to Herod,(Antipas) "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." (Antipas was not a Jew, but the Baptizer makes plain GOD'S morality does apply to everyone.)

GOD'S Law Antipas & Herodias were breaking:

✝ If there is a man who takes his brother's wife, it is detestable; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness.

Leviticus 20:21A NASB

Deut. 25:5 does say it is Ok & in ancient times perhaps even expected for a man to marry his brother's widow if she was childless. Not out of love but as a family responsibility.(for her care and welfare & propagation) As in continuing family bloodlines that in Israel also maintained ancient generational family property rights. But no & never could a man ever marry his brother's wife while his brother lives. Not if divorced or especially if his brother's marriage to the very same woman had ever produced a child. Herodias had a child with her first husband Antipas's brother which meant that under no circumstances by Mosaic Law would she ever be permitted to marry her former husband's brother.

Ok, so now we see that Herod the Great's son Herod Antipas is the Herod in charge ruling in Galill & Perea. Which were what we call today Galilee and Transjordan; the Jordan & Samaritan areas. Antipas was known as an "Italophile" meaning all things Roman having been educated in Rome.

So, Antipas has taken his brother's wife as his wife & we will have more on her shortly while the Baptizer John had been properly condemning Herod & Herodias for this Sin.

However, there is a lot unsaid here from when this Gospel was composed because it was just simply supposed that the reader would already know all of the pertinent background information.

What we miss here is that Antipas being a younger son of Herod the Great, that he should never have been a ruling Herod at all. Whereas his brother Archelaus Herod he was Judea/Jerusalem's named Governor & was called "Ethnarch" which means a ruler of a particular people & in his case this meant the Jewish people. Why? are we talking about Archelaus. When he is deposed a Roman (like Pilate) takes his place.

Archelaus was a Tetrarch from 4BC-6AD/CE but he was so corrupt and cruel that the cries of mercy unto Caesar Augustus/Octavian from Samaria, Judea, & Idumea from each friend or foe and common or royal alike were so great that Archelaus was ultimately removed and banished to Vienna Gaul.

(Archelaus & Antipas were full brothers with a full sister Olympias with these 3 having the same mother Malthace)

Antipas was born a latter son of Herod the Great. As such several of Antipas's older brothers born from various regal or common mothers with two of Herod's previous sons that were each well prepared to be the future King of Israel under Rome.

Certainly not would they have just been trained to be one of the Tetrarch's as in a regional Governor in Palestine. Palestine was the name used by the Romans for Israel to each infuriate & humiliate the Jews.

Say What?

Ok, a Tetrarchy means a Kingdom divided into 4 sections.

As Herod the Great aged he decided to divide his Kingdom into 4 parts unto his heirs with each being a Governor of an area answerable to Rome rather than Israel having one single King as he had been.

As Herod approached death, he realized that he only had 3 sons remaining alive because he had himself murdered several of his elder offspring along with one of his wives- actually his favorite wife to prevent any of them from plotting to overthrow him thusly taking his place.

Sound familiar?

Remember those "wise men" who traveled to Israel meeting Herod & asking him where the prophesied by a star Messiah King was born? Did not Herod then put to death every baby boy from Bethlehem?

Insanity would be the right word used here criminally insane. Because Herod the Great was personally guaranteed his position for life by each the Roman Senate & Caesar Augustus. Meaning anyone even a son or a wife who took his life or even plotted against him would automatically be an enemy of Rome.

Regardless if they were of Herod's blood or no.

Tragically Antipas had three of his older brothers the first 2 were Alexander & Aristobulus, who were executed in 4BCE after returning home from Rome where they had each lived personally with Caesar Augustus Octavian after having been personally instructed by Caesar himself to be Israel's future King.

With one brother to be the King & the other as his spare and heir to serve under him.

Whichever brother Caesar might choose to be the future King of Israel when Herod's final time had come.

Upon the two brothers return home from Rome, Herod held a great banquet and at the conclusion of the party at their father's request Herod had the personal guard of each son strangle them.

The reason being Herod could not bear the thought of another one of his sons feeling the pain of a blade.

As had their 3rd older brother named Antipater II who had been the true heir of Israel whom Herod the Great had murdered 3 years prior in 7BCE. (Antipater II was scheming to be Israel's King not 1 of 4 Governors)

Again, prior to his death Herod the Great had decided to divide his Kingdom into 4 parts. (Antipater II resisted)

Ok, Herod Archelaus (Antipas's other older brother) by their fathers dying wish had received a double share. Archelaus ruled Judea & Samaria while Antipas and Phillip split the remainder of Israel including Galilee.

In time Archelaus the elder brother with the double portion of territory proved to be so cruel that in contrasting compare Archelaus had made his insane father Herod the Great look tame.

So, Archelaus being Antipas's brother who had inherited a double portion of territory from their father Herod the Great, but by his cruelty and corruption while also having a complete disregard for Mosaic Law he was deposed and exiled by Caesar Augustus/Octavian.

Then a Roman Governor took his place in order to keep the order, collect taxes, and oversee local judiciary functions. You know; the Roman Governor Pontius Pilot! (5th Governor by Jesus Time)

History and archology have each proven that Pilot had served Caesar in Palestine. (Israel/Syria)

This is mentioned directly here because for many years the story of Pilot in the Bible was a major criticism of Scriptural text because there was no physical evidence to support the Gospel claims that Pontius Pilot was real or even a Governor in Israel at the time of our Lord Christ's Crucifixion.

This fact of Pilot ruling a double portion of Herod the Great's territory has now been doubly verified. Meaning by multiple examples such as road markers with Pilot's name inscribed on them as Governor have been unearthed with him serving as Governor for Rome in Jesus Time. Get that?

Meaning it is again proven here by Pilot that our calendar is off by a few years. 6 (VI) to be precise.

Roman historical records now rediscovered and properly translated confirm that Pontius Pilot in fact did serve as the Roman Governor of Judea from 26-27AD/CE to 36-37AD/CE. (Philo, Tacitus, Josephus name Pilot)

Note here that controversy exists amongst Roman Historians as per the translation of the dates concerning Pilot as the infamous Biblical Governor. The most accepted theory is Pilot served about 10 years while others say the multi dates listed above actually indicates not one but two 2-year terms.

When Pope Gregory XIII tried to reset the calendar to the correct dates in 1582 creating our current Gregorian calendar from the Julius- they knew our dates and timeline were off. However hard as they may have tried to correct the timeline, they still missed by not having the information and records that we do now properly translated.

So, yes- scholars know our calendar is off but it was such a mess, such a massive undertaking even in 1582 to switch everyone's time and dates that it was decided it is easier to just live with it.

This means: Jesus's trial and crucifixion before Pilot HAD to have occurred in his 26-27 AD/CE term.

This fits perfect because we know Herod the Great died in 4BCE after killing all the baby boys aged two years and under in Bethlehem. Because it took that long for those Persian Maji about 2 years to arrive. After they saw the star of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. It took time for them to realize what Daniel had taught them and to then plan a trip & actually get there by horse/camel caravan.

Meaning Jesus WAS born in 6BCE. He had to be- by correlating & collating Biblical and Historical info.

Jesus then started His public Ministry at His proper O. T. age of 30. (For a Priest to serve in Temple aged 30-50)

As in it was 24 AD/CE then 3 ½ years of public Ministry so our Christ then went to His cross on 27AD/CE.

Proving our calendar is off by 6 years. (Point being if you add Jesus's birth of 6 BCE year to 27 AD does = today's date)

Pope Gregory missed by 5 years and then made a very simple mistake causing a 6th year difference.

E.g. when a baby is born they are however many months old until reaching his/her first birthday.

When switching from the Julian to our current Gregorian calendar they switched directly from 1 BC to 1 AD with no year 0 only measured by months until 1. Couple this with being off by 5 years and we get 6.

As in every date in history including the Bible then correspond correctly if being off by 6 is factored in.

Call time CE or common era if you will but that will never change the fact that Jesus was is in fact the common denominator! Legend persists that BC means Before Christ (correct) & AD means After Death of Christ (incorrect) but of course AD means in Latin Anno Domini "in the year of our Lord." (Jesus)

So, there you go- a massive intellectual can of worms that you will never get back into that can in your head. Our calendar is proven to be wrong and authorities know it. They just dismiss it because it is easier to live with it. This is a chronological accepted secular societal error. Yes, the intellectuals know.

When we reach our Christ Jesus's Passion week we will find another, a second major timeline variation. Theologically overlooked with evidence ignored because it interferes with our traditions of Christ's Crucifixion. Hint- Good Friday is wrong as for the Day that Jesus went to His cross. (3days & nights/tomb)

So, we now pick up our narrative of after when Herod Antipas had arrested and imprisoned John the Baptist for speaking against his and Herodias's unlawful, immoral, and quite public marriage.

Continuing

✠ And Herodias held a grudge against him (Baptist) and wanted to put him to death, and could not do so;

Herodias

Aristobulius IV was Herodias's father & he was Antipas's half brother making Antipas Herodias's uncle. Bernice was Herodias's mother and her (Grand) mother was Queen Salome 1st Herod the Great's sister. Mariamne was her father's (Grand) mother & she was Herod's favorite wife whom he was fooled into executing by her other Grandmother Herod's sister Queen Salome 1st. Yes, her Grandmothers were rivals. Additionally; each of Herodias's Great Grandmothers were also officially Princesses. Maternally was Alexandra a Jewish Hasmonean Princess, & Paternally the forementioned Arab Princess Cypros.

You need to know these facts to understand Herodias. She was indeed a Royal Princess born to rule. So, this also makes Herodias's parents; Aristobulius (Herod) & Bernice (Herod & Princess) cousins as well.

The story of Mariamne- Herodias's other Grandmother she was the daughter of Alexandra, the Jewish Princess whom Herod the Great had executed after many including Herod's sister Salome had grown jealous of her. A Jewess Princess whose influence was great over Herod the Great. She had to go!

So, they; this meaning those being threatened by Mariamne's influence over Herod on multiple occasions, they i.e. Herod's sister Salome had spread the untrue rumor that she was having an affair.

Now it gets deep- Alexandra, the Jewish Princess mother of Mariamne, one of Herodias's Great Grandmothers was also the mother of Mariamne's brother Aristobulius III whom Herod the Great had denied from being appointed as the Biblical Temple High Priest of Israel.

Then Mariamne's brother had mysteriously drowned not even yet 18 years of age & later when Herod had Mariamne, Herodias's Grandmother executed under dicey conditions again driven by Salome 1st Herod's sister dislike of her- Alexandra, Herodias's Great Grandmother appealed to Cleopatra.

Cleopatra did find it all suspicious and in turn dispatched the Roman General Marc Anthony to decide the case and Herod the Great's fate. Herod won but did he then harbor a grudge against Cleopatra?

It should be noted here that until her death Herodias's Great Grandmother made it her life's mission to hinder and be a thorn in Herod the Great's side by whom she rightfully blamed for the death of her children. Alexandra, Herodias's Grand and Great Grandmother- a Jewess Hasmonean Princess, had fled to Egypt out of Herod's reach. Then with her title and great wealth she used unending lawfare & had even from afar had led a non-violent coup attempt against her former son in law Herod the Great.

Perhaps this fact also sheds additional light as for yet another reason Herod later betrayed Cleopatra & Marc Anthony when Herod unexpectedly despite Anthony's support of him, had backed Octavian in the future Roman civil war. Was Herod still smarting from being stung by Alexandra within Cleopatra's reign of influence & power? However, later Cleopatra never intervened when Herod legally prevailed & then had his former mother-in-law Alexandra immediately executed as well. (for false accusations)

Ok, Josephus does record that Herod the Great then kept Mariamne's body near him for over 7 years in like manor that Alexander the Great was preserved in a glass coffin immersed in honey. In Jesus Time you could visit Alexandria Egypt and view the displayed body of Alexander the Great. History has lost or perhaps it was concealed the final resting place of Alexander the Great when he was finally respectfully and peacefully buried.

However, the same can not be said of Mariamne. Palace rumors held that one evening when after a drunken mournful breakdown by Herod the Great, that he broke her glass & plucked Mariamne out of the honey while crying & embracing her. It was also recorded that after Mariamne's death- Herod the Great began to host drunken banquets every night to occupy himself after his royal duties were over.

So, know you know Why? Herodias had no moral issues of having marriages nor affairs to “marry up” or “power up” per say as for her gaining position, power, or favor within the Herodian Dynasty.

This was considered normal for the royal Herod's. Even for the treachery involved despite the obvious immoral adultery & improper incest with her willful breaking of the GOD given Law of Moses.

Herodias's first husband was Phillip (not the Tetrarch) whom was actually again older than her & of Antipas's generation being his half brother known as Herod II. Herodias had been married to him- Herod II Phillip, for quite some time as she was engaged at 8 years old and together they had Salome III as their daughter.

You see it was He- Phillip Herod II, whom was previously in line to become the full King of Israel.

This is Why? Herodias then an orphan at 15 was finally married to him. Again like Antipas another uncle. However, prior to Herod the Great's death Herod having changed his will turning his Kingdom into 4 regions having 4 Governors instead of one King & further yet Herodias's Phillip was willed out altogether.

Herod willed Phillip out on his death bed because he felt Phillip knew more about a prior poisoning attempt.

Historians hold Antipas actually fell in love with Herodias while in Rome with Antipas being one of the 2 remaining Herodian Governors with Pilot of Rome now Governing 2 of Israel's regions. When Herod II Phillip learned of Herodias's affair & plotting with Antipas, he agreed to divorce all the while being another of Herod the Great's son's he personally appealed to Caesar. (Then Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Octavian's adopted son)

Caesar also agreed by allowing Herodias to divorce Phillip and then to take up with Antipas.

Since Herodias was a Roman citizen and in Rome, she was able to sue for a divorce directly by herself.

However, under Jewish Law her future next husband Antipas was the cheater and was disdained in Israel.

Herod II Phillip was free to go and live peacefully unworried securing his life and wealth apart from his wife. That was the price of Herodias's ambitions that she had to release any and all claims upon her first husband Phillip's titles, power, and or his immense wealth & property. Albeit he retired only as a citizen.

Phillip Herod II Herodias's first husband was also like Antipas quite personally wealthy.

What Phillip eventually willed to his and Herodias's daughter together Salome III who knows?

However, this also means that if Herodias lost her marriage to Antipas, then Herodias lost everything.

Her position, power, title, wealth, privilege, & career. Would she even survive if convicted of adultery?

In Israel the punishment for adultery was stoning. (For Jews and those adhering to Judaism)

Antipas a direct son of Herod the Great having Rome's blessing. (untouchable even though practicing Judaism)

Meaning he could be removed from power but still not be held accountable to Jewish Law & custom.

However, with Herodias being a Granddaughter of Herod, she had some privileges but not the same protection under Roman Law. Meaning Herodias was not born above Jewish Law in the eyes of Rome.

Meaning Herodias as a Mosaic Law Breaking Herod half Jewish Princess & half Arab Princess get it?

In Israel where they took selfish pride in their GODLY chosen role and pure bloodlines no one would have been more despised than Herodias.

But so far everyone was playing nice with her. Phillip, Antipas, even Caesar to a point, and certainly the looking the other way Pharisee's. Everyone & all except for Israel's new wilderness Preacher who was gaining an immense following and being taken as a genuine revival Prophet of Israel. John the Baptist.

Now John alone was calling out Antipas for breaking GOD'S Law and as such he was putting enormous political pressure on the Pharisee's to actually do their job and to denounce Herodias's power play.

Her improper, immoral, & incestuous Law-breaking marriage to Antipas.(Pharisee's question John by who's authority)

Worse yet; even after being arrested the Baptizer continued to denounce Herodias and Antipas. Further Antipas was moved by the words of the Baptizer & he and the other authorities feared harming John.

Which could start an unnecessary politically dire uprising at this time of war! Yes, an Antipas war was on.

You see Antipas was also married prior to Herodias, to “Phasa'el” a Princess herself, the daughter of King Aretas IV of Nabatea. (Arab Bedouins) Phasa'el went home divorced & disgraced being dumped for a much younger woman. So, then her father sacked Galilee easily defeating Antipas's troops & he will only be

stopped by the intervention of Roman Legion. Only then will peace be restored from a marital war.

Now you know Why? :

✠ ²⁰ for Herod was afraid of John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he had been protecting him. (no touch John) And when he heard him, he was very perplexed; (knowing he should leave Herodias) and yet he used to enjoy listening to him.

Antipas was greatly afraid and confused because he had already underestimated his previous wife Phasa'el's reaction. Because she had rightfully considered herself to literally be the Galilean Queen.

So, Phasa'el caused a costly war to overthrow and kill Antipas & she would have done it save for Rome. With her father King Aretas's having convincingly overwhelming & crushing the Galilean defense forces. So, Rome had to intervene thusly saving Antipas then Rome did absolutely nothing to Phasa'el, nor her King father, or her army save for saying and insisting that all of them go home, stay there, or else.

All the while John the Baptist was now the biggest thing to happen to the Jews since Elijah or when manna fell from the sky and of course John was right; by Mosaic Law- Antipas & Herodias, their marriage was an immoral incestuous Sinful abomination in GOD'S sight.

So, Herodias obviously feared that Antipas would eventually cave under Roman or Pharisaical pressure all caused by the popular Baptizer. Then having her marriage annulled & she banished or worse? Stoned she feared, or perhaps even given to Phasa'el? Very possible she thought? But was it probable?

Now you know the ulterior motives behind the other than a birthday reason Why?

Herod Antipas was hosting & having a BD feast with his nobles and generals & not his friends & family. Antipas and Herodias were attempting to regain their favor after causing these particularly powerful people so much trouble. As in political & power positions were being exchanged as party favors for their continued support.

Continuing

✠ An opportune day came when Herod, on his birthday, held a banquet for his nobles and military commanders, and the leading people of Galilee;

Meanwhile John the Baptist was always true to GOD'S Word & had Faithfully kept to His cause: Of preparing Israel for The Christ. The Baptizer had never wavered, nor did he ever stop in condemning Herod Antipas & Herodias within their very public illicit marriage that continued to serve as a GOD defying bad example of a lifestyle before all in Galilee. (Daniel gives an exact date for Messiah as in during Jesus Time all in Israel were expecting a Savior when John the Baptist began correctly Preaching repent Messiah is here!!)

It was also during this time of John's incarceration as we have studied previously within our lessons "The Perplexed Baptizer " & "The Baptizer Explained," of when John- in Herod's prison, had called & dispatched his own Disciples to inquire of Jesus Christ basically Why? Have you not yet initiated GOD'S coming Kingdom? Was John a Prophet? Yes. But he was human & perhaps growing weary of prison.

The Gospels record that Jesus replied to John the Baptist by resending his followers back to him informing him of all of the fulfilled signs of the Messiah/Christ that Jesus had completed. (Dr. Luke 7:22)

Meaning: have patience John! (Only My Heavenly Father knows the hour of His Coming Kingdom, Matthew 24:36)

Jesus, also included within his return message to John via his students that He was most pleased with John and that he had Righteously fulfilled his GOD given purpose he had been tasked with at birth.

Meaning: if John could read between the lines: "You have done well my friend your job/life are done."

Remember John's questioning as to the timing of "Thy Kingdom to Come" was not out of line nor was his question disrespectful of Jesus on John's part. (Matthew 11:3)

Later Christ's very own Disciples even including His leading Apostles they too will struggle in understanding that Jesus as in The Divine everlasting GOD born human was not going to have one single coming of Advent, but two separate comings by Jesus Himself personally. (Acts 1:6)

Initially Jesus came to provide His one and only "Way" for us to enter into His Heavenly Fathers " Thy Kingdom Come," whereas during His Second Coming Advent Jesus our Lord then initiates His Kingdom.

Remember the first century Jews understood each aspect of these O.T. Messianic Prophecies. However, they thought then as they still do today that it will be two separate individuals completing Prophecy & not one coming Christ arriving twice who will then fulfill each aspect as King/Messiah. Is this the reason Why? Israel will be fooled by the future Antichrist and his False Prophet found within the New Testament Prophecy of Revelation?

Because Satan knows that Israel misunderstands and still expects not one but two Messiahs? Yes, I do think so, because the Bible says so.

Again, we know that it is Jesus who will fulfill both aspects of Messiah in 2 separate coming Advents. Ok summarizing the Jews; including here the Baptizer with his entourage and even initially the followers of Jesus did not perceive that this would all be by one man. One Divine Holy eternal human born Messiah- who did & will personally come to us twice on two separate predicted occasions and will not be fulfilled by two separate different individuals.

Continuing

✝ and when the daughter of Herodias herself came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you want, and I will give it to you." ²³ And he swore to her, "Whatever you ask of me, I will give it to you, up to half of my kingdom."

Salome

Historians are the ones who actually give to us her name because it was never stated in the Gospels. However, this Biblical narrative of Salome was well known and is also of public record. The Latin Vulgate Bible at a later date does indeed state her name as Salome.

Josephus, within his Antiquities of the Jews, book XVIII chapter 5:4 gives to us her name as Salome III. Officially Salome III with her parents being Herod II aka Phillip a direct son of Herod the Great, and her mother Herodias a granddaughter of Herod the Great. Salome III was also now additionally the step-daughter of Herod Antipas. Phillip's half brother with Antipas also being a direct son of Herod the Great. As for her name of Salome, this was the name of Herod the Great's sister who ruled as Queen under Rome in the areas of Iamnia, Azotus, and Phasaelis upon Herod the Great's death from 4 BCE to 10 AD/CE when she too passed. Salome I Herod the Great's Queen sister, had a daughter named Bernice, who was the mother of Herodias. Making Queen Salome I (Herod the Great's sister) the Grandmother of Herodias & Great Grandmother of Salome III.

Further as for Queen Salome I herself, she was named in honor of Salome Alexandra who was in her time by fate and circumstances Queen of Judea during the latter portions of the Maccabean period. Salome Alexandra's reign of 9 years in Judea is considered to be one of the most prosperous and peaceful times in Jewish history. Salome Alexandra is remembered as the Queen of the "golden age" of the Hasmonean period. (Queen Herod Salome I was not blood related to Queen Salome Alexandra just named after her) Historians do record that Judea fell to Rome a short 4 years after Queen Salome Alexandra's death. This was mainly because of infighting and power struggles giving Rome an opportunity to conquer Israel. As for Salome II, she was born in 14 BCE & was another princess daughter of Herod the Great. However, by being born from one of Herod the Great's lesser wives –Elpis, not much other than of her being a princess is known about her.

Meaning the privilege as a Herod was hers, but not any real political position nor power.

Each legend and literary adaptations of this night including reenactments or even modern plays & films always use the infamous “Dance of 7 Veils” as the choice of performance by Salome.

A sensuous seductive dance in which the dancer is totally nude under the veils which were removed and or replaced at various times. Oh, for the record rumor, historians, and legend alike do record the line of Herodias & Salome going back to Salome I that they were all very beautiful so keep this in mind.

This is supposed to be the dance that Salome used that caused Antipas perhaps in a drunken state to make such a foolish mistake. Even the promising of up to half of his Kingdom. We should also note here that Salome quite possibly had political motivations of her own within this performance.

You see, she too was coming of age, as far as the Royal Herodians were concerned.

As for their incestuous ways of keeping Herod’s original political power totally within their bloodlines. Because history indeed records that Salome III was married to yet another direct son of Herod the Great, the much older than herself Phillip the Tetrarch, (Not Herod Phillip her father) nearly after this night. Governor Phillip was not there, but did he hear about this night? No question, more on this later.

Continuing

✠ And she (Salome) went out and said to her mother, (Herodias) “What shall I ask for?” And she said, “The head of John the Baptist.”

At what point does one wonder when Antipas finally realized into just what a corner he had backed himself into with the promising of such a great deal to one so young before so many powerful and elite people who were already at this time by his and Herodias marriage politically estranged from him? Perhaps when he saw the girl run to Herodias and seek her advice? Uh oh, you would think so.

In Antipas’s defense; not that there is really much to define save for getting caught up in a moment of emotional outburst. We must recall that Antipas had no children of his own from either of his wives.

Now we are starting to see even more of the reason Why? Herodias had set her sights upon Antipas. Antipas was a younger son of Herod & Herodias an elder daughter of one of Antipas’s brothers meaning only about 5 years separated them in age and he was in power & rich without an heir.

So, when Antipas drunkenly told Salome that she could claim up to half of his Kingdom, this was not as outlandish as we might suspect.

Twas not entirely unconceivable that in his mind one day perhaps soon this could all be hers anyway. Also, lest we forget that Antipas and Herodias were attempting to save their improper but politically charged marriage at this party in the eyes of all the powerful of Galilee. So, by declaring Salome as worthy of receiving his property as Herodias's daughter, with him being her benefactor, this certainly played into the narration of their marriage being legitimate unwavering and secure.

So, Antipas’s without an heir had not as of yet legally named Salome as such due to all of the controversy surrounding his marriage.

Illegal because Antipas like his father Herod the Great had each claimed to be Jewish not just in practice but by blood. Of course being named as Antipas’s property heir this did not guarantee political power. Only Rome could do that. However, by being Idumean, Antipas was not born Jewish, but even stating such a claim that he was Jewish this fact alone made him subject to Mosaic Law. I.e. his illegal marriage. (This is Why? Antipas was in Jerusalem during Passover for Jesus’s illegal trials because he had claimed Jewish ancestry)

Possibly with Salome nearing legal age Antipas was also officially endorsing her as his heir?

Was this even pre-arranged to reward Salome with title & or territory upon her dance completion?

Seriously, was there a pre-arranged agreement in the first place between Herod II Phillip & Herodias with Antipas when Phillip allowed Herodias to divorce him and then to take up with Antipas?

That they left him Phillip alone to live in peace while also securing his daughter Salome’s future?

Does this not sound like an Herodian move? Even approved by Caesar? Speculative of course.

Further upon this thought; was Antipas even hoping that Salome would ask from him the granting of some title or territory or perhaps even for both under him to begin her political career? Possibly. But truly only Antipas, Herodias, & probably not as of yet would Salome have known this. Thinking if this were the case; then did Herodias outplay & outsmart Antipas even by using Salome? Again, speculative but it certainly appears as so.

Especially if Herodias knew what Antipas was thinking or even subconsciously planning if he had previously promised her about Salome. Meaning Herodias had just used Antipas's plans against him. Remember the real purpose of this party was not to just celebrate Antipas's birthday, but to finally and securely legitimize his illicit marriage with Herodias including Salome as his step-daughter. (& Heir?) While it was certainly neither Antipas nor Herodias who had won the Galilean elite over, but it was indeed Salome who had achieved that. (Historians say Salome danced to the dreadful beat of her mother's heart)

Continuing

✠ Immediately she came in a hurry to the king and asked, saying, “I want you to give me at once (Immediately) the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”

Here we do have an indication of a much more mature mind behind the demand for John's head. As in did Salome even understand that within the “Targum,” that is the Hebrew Scriptures translated into the common language of Galilee in Jesus Time which was Aramaic.

The Aramaic Targum does list 4 legal means of execution in Palestine since the time of Naomi & Ruth. They were: Stoning, Burning, Beheading, & Crucifixion.

Not only was Beheading considered to be the most honorable of these four, but it was also a requirement that the condemned must first be severely whipped before Beheading. However, if their death was considered to be honorable, then an execution without humiliation was mercifully granted to the prisoner. Meaning they were spared the pain of scourging. (Jesus got no such honor)

This is indeed Why? Herodias had said so exactly for Salome to demand immediately the head of the Baptist. She was using the letter of the Law to say yes- John you have broken the Law by defying me, but we respect your words, and we honor your honor die well. (Spared Scourging was a respectful act)

Was this not a mature mind of a true scheming Herodian making her unwanted goal seem like a mercy. You see this was much more than just a young girl twirling away to get her way. It was Law Manipulation. Brilliantly & quite deviously played out by Herodias knowing Antipas will need to save his reputation. So, tis true it may have been Salome who had danced the Baptizers life away, but it was really the fury, fear, vengeance, & cunning of Herodias who had successfully schemed to silence by Lawful violence the only powerful voice of dissent against her illicit marital affairs of her political ambition.

Continuing

✠ And although the king was very sorry, because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he was unwilling to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded him to bring back his head. And he went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ and brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.

Antipas was sorrowful for John the Baptist's demise and according to Scripture he had enjoyed his talks with John. However, this went even further not only was Herod's reputation and his word on the line, but also the civil war with his ex-wife Phasa'el on this night was still raging. In fact, Antipas was losing this war and now by his order being outmaneuvered by Herodias or no, the order was still his- the killing of a very popular Prophet. How would the people react? Would they protest or riot?

Was this also ultimately Why? Rome finally did intervene at this time not only ending the literal marital civil war in Galilee over Herodias, but was this Roman intervention also over the execution of John the Baptist? As in was Caesar told to expect civil unrest if Rome did not flood the entire area with Legionnaire? At this point did everyone else meaning all those powerful nobles and military leaders at Antipas's party then inform & implore Rome of just what a mess politically, socially, morally, & economically because wars cost while not even mentioning the loss of life & limb on both sides of this internal Herodian war? Of this we can have no doubt.

So now including the death of this very popular Baptizer whose biggest crime in Rome's sight was Preaching repent from Sin in the remote deserted spaces and places while never once setting foot within a Roman controlled location. Meaning Rome had no slight nor fight with John the Baptist.

Could the Baptizers death possibly cause an uprising by surely enflaming those Jewish Zealots even further since John the Baptist was regarded as he truly was- a Holy Prophet from GOD.

As Antipas continued to lose battle after battle to his ex-wife Phasa'el's forces, the Jews in Galilee contended that this was Antipas's penance for the taking of the Baptizers life, his eventual defeat & death by the hand of his true wife.

All of this with each politicians and Pharisee's reminding Caesar that every side involved were of or under Roman pledge & or protection. Again, calling all of this a mess is an Empire sized understatement.

So, from Caesar; now Tiberius Caesar, Octavian/Augustus's step-son, from his perspective he had no choice but to deploy additional Legions to quell all of this very expensive trouble in the usually peaceful and prosperous area of Galilee. Costing Caesar on all fronts. Money & men while not even mentioning time. Civil War with further Civil unrest over the death of a Holy man now leaving Rome responsible for the peace. Now does Caesar remember that all of this trouble could be traced directly back to Herodias alone?

Conclusion

✝ When his disciples (John the Baptist) heard about this, they came and carried away his body, and laid it in a tomb.

So, it was made crystal clear by our Lord & Savior Jesus, that John the Baptist had served Him well and had completed everything that our Heavenly Father had Willed for John to do.

We can all rest assured that John the Baptist is within GOD'S Glory in Heaven.

A true born and well lived Biblical hero!

But how does this story end for each Antipas, Herodias, & Salome?

Especially with multiple Caesars now predisposed to not likening Herodias. Her reputation was trouble!

Could this be Why? That after being stung by deceit that Antipas then allowed Salome to whisked away and married off to his other half brother Phillip. Of course, with this Phillip not being Salome's father Phillip Herod II but to Phillip like Antipas a Governor/Tetrarch.

Phillip was also installed as the Tetrarch or governor/administrator upon his father's death in 4BC/CE of the north-eastern portions of Herod the Great's previous Kingdom of what we do today call Lebanon, Syria, & Northern Israel. These areas were considered to not only be Hellenistic in nature, but outright pagan and even heathen to the Jews of Jerusalem. However, Phillip himself was considered to be the best of the Herod's. At least as far as the Herod's did go. Phillip was basically fair and actually most of the time he tried to listen and respond to the needs of his subjects earning him his people's respect.

Again, another half brother of Antipas who with him had been trained and educated together in Rome.

Phillip was the son of Herod the Great and Cleopatra of Jerusalem. (Not Egyptian Queen)

Caesarea Philippi the city, was built by Phillip, in the area previously known as Paneas which had been dedicated to the Pagan Greek Pan mythology. So, in honor of Caesar and for himself Phillip built this city, his capitol city, upon the ruins of ancient Paneas known as Banias today.

It should also be noted here that into Phillips territory after the beheading of John the Baptist during this time of marital civil war in Galilee, this was not only to where Salome was married off too but was also to where Jesus went immediately after John the Baptists execution.

Also, did Herodias allow this? Salome being married off to Herod Phillip because did all of this keep a marriage promise to her first husband as for Salome while also empowering Salome while additionally getting her out of the house so to say as in away from Antipas's anger at being deceived?

As for Herod Antipas and Herodias; when Phillip passed in 34 AD/CE without any sons- yes, Salome's marriage to her great uncle from both sides of her family tree lasted only a year or so until Phillips death. So, having no children between Phillip and Salome, Phillips territory or realms were then added to the Syrian province under Rome. These were ruled by King Agrippa I meaning Herodias's full brother. Agrippa I had the same parents as Herodias making him a grandson of Herod the Great, however he was installed as an actual King by Caesar and not just a governor of Phillips (Salome) territory.

Of course Herodias would have none of that! She thought double insult each to Antipas & Salome!!

Herodias stewed, plotted, and persisted that Antipas would also be given the official Roman designation as King of Galilee. So, 5 years later in 39 AD/CE Herodias's patience wore thin as she sent & went with Herod Antipas to Rome. There they personally demand that Caesar now Caligula grant to Antipas the same title of King as Herodias's brother now had in the territory that Salome had briefly been first lady.

Caligula- knowing full well of all of the trouble Herodias had previously caused the Empire in Galilee and seeing an aging Antipas cowering to her wishes even going as far as traveling to Rome amongst the now rampant rumors that Antipas would have betrayed the previous Caesar Tiberius politically if necessary by an alliance with Sejanus- the leader of the Roman Praetorian Guard, rumored (by ironically Agrippa I Herodias's full brother King!) to have been plotting to overthrow Tiberius Caesar.

(this rumored plot smelled of Herodias)

The only problem was Tiberius then died before it happened!

Ok, so apparently according to Herodias's brother King Agrippa I- Antipas, had agreed to support Sejanus in his coup d'état against Tiberius and if successful he would have finally gained his title as King of Galilee.

When Tiberius died in 37 AD/CE then Caligula became Caesar, so in time & by the time Herodias had finally snapped at being outplayed by her brother King who was also now again spreading the rumor that Antipas was now aligning himself with Parthia (northern Iran) against Caligula.

So, when Herodias was again being outplayed by her own full brother no less, not leaving well enough alone she took Antipas and together they went to Rome to demand Kingship of Antipas before Caligula. Caligula not known for patience promptly and immediately deposed Antipas retiring him with Herodias from any further politics permanently. Check mate. Game over.

(As recorded by Emil Schurer from History of the Jewish people in the time of Jesus Christ Vol.1)

Antipas with Herodias were then sent by Caligula to Lugdunum Gaul known today as Lyons France.

King Agrippa I Herodias's brother was ultimately granted Antipas's territory in addition to his own.

Herodias then having been warned personally by Caesar to enjoy Antipas's great wealth, this was at least the portions that Caesar had not yet stripped away in their retirement or else.

Caligula took Antipas's power, title, and moneys but not entirely all of his quite considerable wealth.

Antipas only lasted about a year in exile & once he passed very shortly after being deposed to France- Meaning in the end Herodias had cost Herod Antipas everything.

His former wife, his life, and his Kingdom.

However, Caesar did let Herodias enjoy the wealth of Antipas whom beyond his public building projects did not splurge much on other things.

Antipas may have been a hedonist living for daily pleasure as a Tetrarch, but with all of his physical needs publicly provided for he was not known for lavish personal spending. So, Herodias enjoyed what Antipas had accumulated over a lifetime with his owning of various industrial productions, his portion of vast taxes, & massive personal property income.

Even now with most of Antipas's property, titles, & wealth now given to Herodias's brother by Caesar, Antipas had already collected and saved a lifetime's worth of profits, fees, and rents from them.

So much so that Herodias gained quite a reputation of legendary nobility by excessive living during her years of forced early retirement.

With Herodias's retirement eventually becoming known historically as "Herodias's days of prosperity." Also, the name of Herodias became associated with "midnight rides" of witchcraft in medieval Europe.

As for Salome; she did remarry & of course to another Herod.

This time to her first cousin Aristobulus of Chalcis.

Aristobulus was son of Herod of Chalcis. (Lebanon not Greece) Another brother of her mother Herodias.

With Salome then officially becoming Queen of Armenia Minor.

Salome & Aristobulus then had two royal sons together.

There are three distinct legends as for the death of Salome.

First: Being the far-fetched rumor that Salome passionately kissed the severed head of John the Baptist & then he awoke and ordered the death of Salome and she was killed on the spot. Not true.

The other two legends as for Salome's final disposition each contain the common denominator of ice.

Second: Salome had slipped and fell on ice having then died after striking her head.

Third: She fell through a frozen pond of ice and drown.

So, ice is probably true to the point of being known in 2 out of the 3 legends as for Salome's end.

Also, finally as for Salome within the non-Biblical cannon book attributed to the Apostle Bartholomew I "The Resurrection of Christ" does state that Salome herself was within a group of protected, prestigious, & powerful women who also later after His Resurrection had visited the empty tomb of our risen Jesus.

We know this because supposedly Bartholomew refers to this Salome present at Christ's Tomb as the very same Salome who was the dancing temptress responsible for the death of the Baptizer.

Ok, if true does this mean that she too was awoken by all the commotion on the night of Jesus's arrest and had personally witnessed for herself the illegal trial of our Lord before Herod Antipas in Jerusalem during that fateful Passover night? Probable.

If at the Tomb; Salome would have been by this time already widowed and removed as first lady of Phillip's territory meaning she could/should/would have been present in Jerusalem with Antipas and Herodias.

It should also be noted here this writing attributed to Bartholomew is thought to be a Coptic (Egyptian Christian) ill Gnostic commentary upon the Gospel of Matthew dating to the 2nd century. This writing was quoted by Jerome the early Church Father known best for translating into Latin the Vulgate Bible.

With the completion of this lesson of Jesus Time we have completed the saga of John the Baptist.

From prior to his birth, through his GOD given Ministry, & now to his Earthly death.

So here is the complete Jesus Time list that references additional information on John the Baptist :

They can be found on jesustime.net (lesson number before their title)

2 The Parents of the Baptist.

3 John the Baptist.

4 Jesus is Baptized.

6 Initial Disciples.

11 The Baptizer Honors Christ,.

44 The Perplexed Baptizer.

45 The Baptizer Explained.

60 Antipas, Herodias, & Salome (Execution of John the Baptist)

Summary & Quick Fact Check: (With corrected dates as for Jesus)

113-114 BCE controversy exists over the exact date, Antipater Herod the Idumean founder of the Herodian Dynasty was born in Edom later converts to Judaism was Hellenistic, wealthy, influential, and pro Roman.

Date unknown Antipater Herod a local politician then marries Cypros, a Nabataean (Arab) Princess with she being a Governmental Noble vastly increasing Antipater's stature, wealth, & Roman position.

107 BCE Idumea/Petra was conquered by John Hyrcanus the Hasmonaean Jewish High Priest.

72 BCE Herod I the Great second son of Antipater & Cypros was born & raised as Cypros's ruling aide.

67 BCE In Judaea the Jewish Hasmonean Queen Salome Alexandra dies.

63 BCE Herod Antipater betrays Israel and assists the Roman General Pompey in conquering Judea.

As a result, Julius Caesar then appoints Herod Antipater as Regent of Judea.

(A Roman Regent means a minor monarch sitting in an absent Kings place))

43 BCE Antipater Herod was assassinated by a political rival. (Poisoned by a non-Hellenized traditional Jew)

41 BCE Herod I the Great was betrothed to Hasmonean Princess Mariamne.

40 BCE Herod I the Great, surprising everyone petitions in Rome & gains the Senates favor making him King of the Jews.

37 BCE Herod I the Great marries Hasmonean Princess Mariamne gains more power, title, & wealth.

37-34 BCE Herod I the Great then leads a Roman Senate supported victorious 3-year Judean civil war becoming the sole ruler of Roman Judea by defeating the Hasmonean Jewish King & High Priest Antigonus. Herod then rules as a vassal of Rome until his death in 4 BCE.

31 BCE Initially Herod the Great supports Cleopatra and Roman General Marc Anthony who supported him in the Roman Senate previously by having him made King of Judea during the Roman civil war over Julius Caesars assassination. However ultimately Herod then betrays Anthony/Cleopatra and resupplies/reenforces Octavian's Roman Senate Legions to victory.

Starting what became known as the patient/client era of Roman politics. (Financial support in exchange for military)

Octavian now Augustus Caesar rewards Herod by enlarging his territory now including Samaria, Gaza, & Golan. With Herod the Greats territory rivaling King Davids era of dominion.

Herod the Great then taxes and oppresses heavily to pay much tribute to Rome while financing further massive infrastructure projects including the refurbishing of the famed Jewish Second Temple and its surrounding complex in Jerusalem during Jesus Time.

12 BCE Octavian/Augustus was named High Priest of Rome (Pontifex Maximus/Pope) and then orders the personal worship of himself throughout all Roman Provinces including Israel. (Yes, Pope was a Pagan office) So, This begins endless trouble with those pesky rich religious Jews.

6 BCE Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Best guesstimation.

Yes, our calendar is well known to be off by a few years. 6 years ahead to be precise.

5-4 BCE The Biblically & Historically recorded "Massacre of the Innocents" Herod kills all baby boys 2 years & under in Bethlehem after being told by Persian Magi that the King of Israel had been born there.

4 BCE Herod I the Great dies splitting his Kingdom into 4 parts to his heirs.

(Yes, the Jews said and thought that GOD took his life for what he did to the babies in Bethlehem)

4 BCE Antipas & Phillip each receive one of the 4 shares of Herod the Greats Israel under Rome.

26 AD/CE Herod Antipas at Herodias's behest has John the Baptist beheaded. (year rounded down by 6)

27 AD/CE best guesstimation of Jesus our Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, & Heavenly ascension.

26 & 34 AD/CE Salome III Marries Tetrarch Phillip & upon his death later remarries Aristobulus of Chalcis. Salome then becoming Queen of Armenia Minor. She was known as the deadly "Dancing Queen!"

Bet that ABBA song is now in your head!! (ABBA means GOD is Father & Salome was approximately 17)

39 AD/CE Antipas deposed then died with Herodias forcibly retired & exiled to France by Caesar Caligula.