

PAULINE EPISTLES

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GOVERNOR FELIX AND DRUSILLA VISITED PAUL IN PRISON

(ACTS 24 : 24 - 27)

WHO WAS JULIA DRUSILLA, GOVERNOR FELIX'S WIFE?

- She was the third wife of Governor Felix
- She was the great grand daughter of Herod the great
- At age fourteen, she was given in marriage to king Azizus of Emeza
- According to Flavius Josephus, she was seduced by governor Felix, divorced her husband and became his third wife
- She was the youngest of three daughters of king Herod Agrippa 1.
- Queen Bernice the wife of king Agrippa II mentioned in **Acts 25:13** was Drusilla's older sister.
- King Herod Agrippa I, the father of first lady Drusilla was the grandson of Herod the great and one of the Roman-appointed rulers in Israel from Herod dynasty.

LET US LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE HERODS

HEROD'S DYNASTY

- The New Testament mentioned several men referred to as "Herod" from Matthew to Acts 26.
- A casual reader of the bible might think that Herod had tremendous longevity as a king. That is not true, we have different Herods in the New Testament who were of a dynasty.
- Dr. Luke and other Bible writers did not see the need to explain who the Herods were as that would have been a common knowledge to his readers then, BUT NOT FOR US TODAY.
- Unlike other previous kings of Israel, the Herods were appointed by the emperor and the Roman senate.
- The first of Herods is known as Herod the Great, or Antipater II, the son of Antipater I.

HEROD'S DYNASTY

HEROD THE GREAT:

- He was “ King of the Jews” at Jesus birth and tried to have him killed. Matthew 2:1-21.
- Herod the Great according to history helped the Roman Army to fight against the Hasmonean dynasty and publicly declared himself a Jew
- He was after that war appointed as the King of Judea by the Roman Empire.
- He renovated the Second Temple at Jerusalem

HEROD THE GREAT ATTROCITIES

(MATTHEW 2 : 13 - 21)

- Joseph and Mary ran to Egypt because of him.
- Because of Jesus, he killed children below two years of age in effort to destroy the messiah
- He fought in support of Rome against the Jewish Hasmonean and was rewarded with the title king of the Jews by the Roman Senate.
- Herod appointed Aristobulus his wife's brother as the high priest and later killed him because he was a potential rival
- He killed 46 members of Sanhedrin during his reign and his mother-in-law

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HEROD THE GREAT ATTROCITIES

(MATTHEW 2 : 13 - 21)

- Herod killed his wife Mariamne and two of their sons Aristobulous and Alexander as he considered them potential rivals
- He died after a long and excruciating illness. The angel of the Lord informed Joseph about his death and asked him to return to Israel Matt 2:19-21
- During his dying days, he divided his kingdom in his will into four parts and gave them to his surviving sons and Sister Salome, after he had killed Aristobulus his heir apparent to the throne. This action was later confirmed and implemented by the Roman senate

THE SONS OF HEROD THE GREAT

Herod the Great

Herod Aristobulus

Herod Alexander

Herod Antipas

Herod Philip

Herod Archelaus

Herod Agrippa I

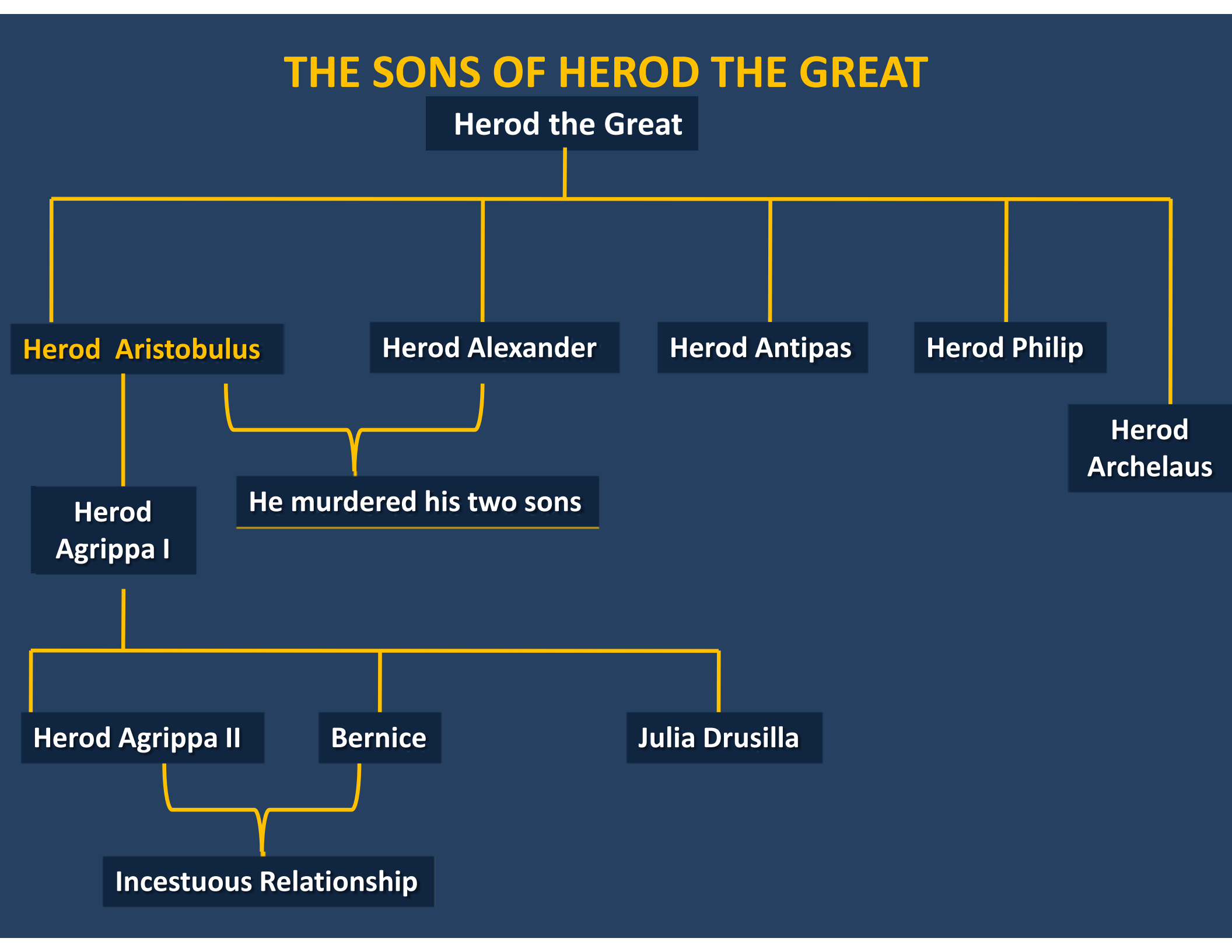
He murdered his two sons

Herod Agrippa II

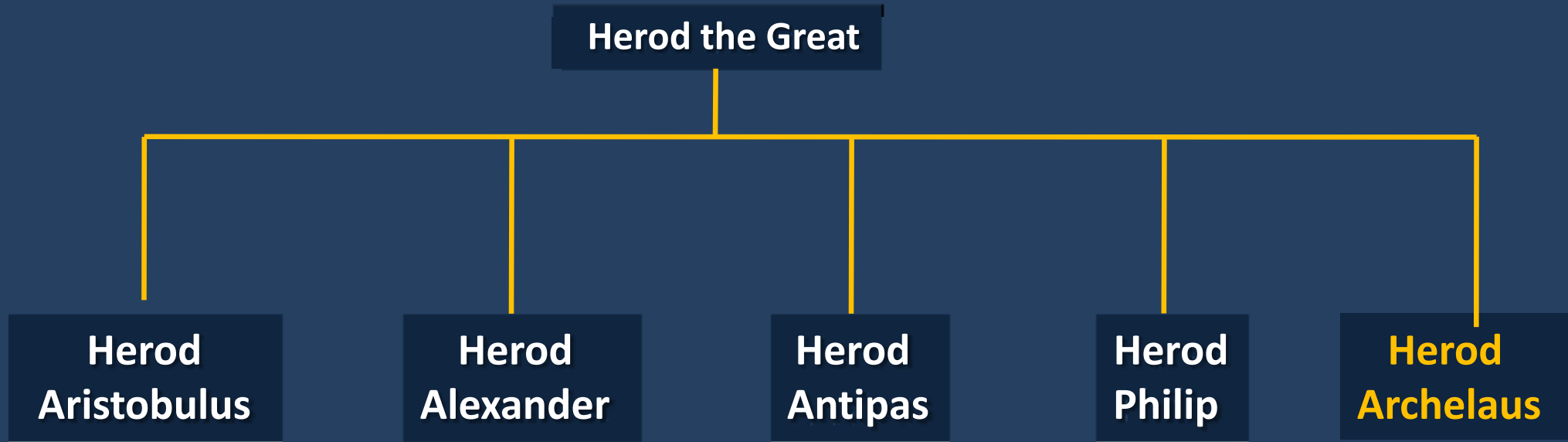
Bernice

Julia Drusilla

Incestuous Relationship



HEROD ARCHELAUS AND HIS TERRITORY



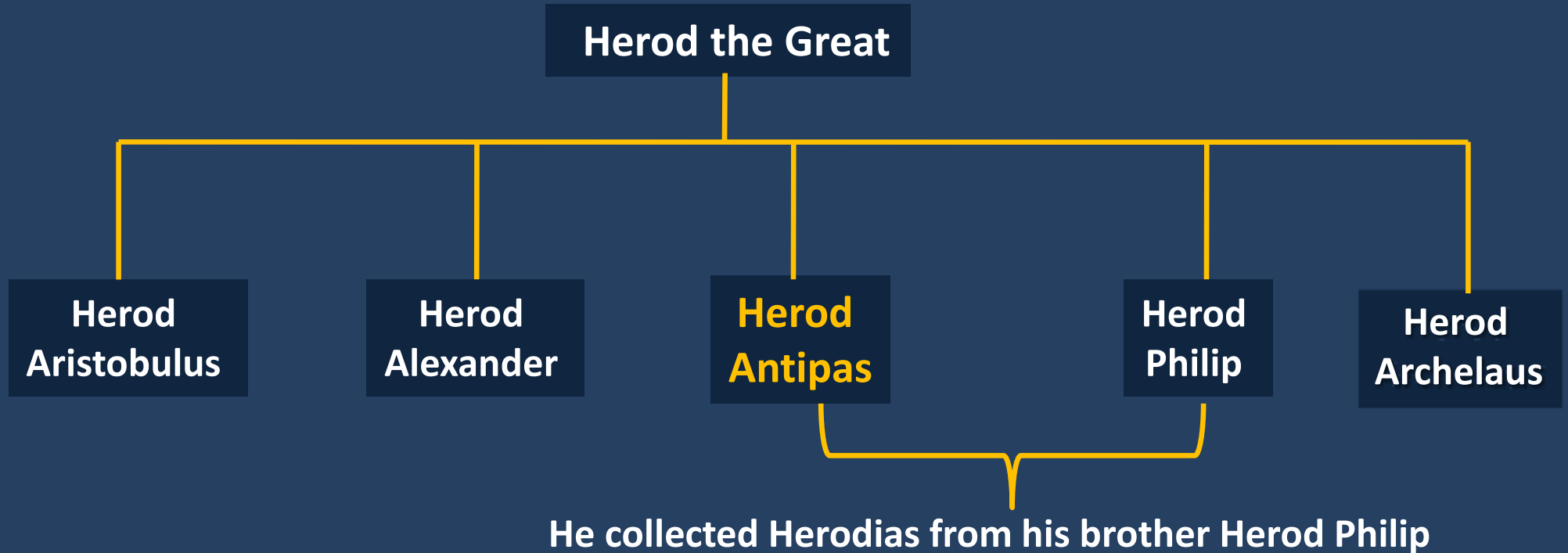
- After the death of Herod the Great, Herod Archelaus took over power and gave powerful promises to his people. But he needed Rome's prayer and approval to operate as King. Matthew 2: 22
- He traveled to Rome to receive this blessings and approval when he met his brothers and other Jewish opponent
- They presented the WILL of Herod the Great to the Emperor and presented facts of Archelaus callous leadership

THE EMPEROR'S JUDGEMENT

‘Caesar does give some concessions based on their report of Archelaus’ cruelty. He decides that Archelaus will rule only half the kingdom, and as an ethnarch, not a king. He will receive the royal dignity only after Archelaus shows he can rule virtuously. Caesar then follows King Herod's last will and gives a quarter of the kingdom to Antipas and a quarter to Philip—who had hurried to Rome when he had heard that the tide might be turning against Archelaus’’

- Herod Archelaus was given Judea, Samaria including some cities in Caesarea
- He was removed from power after Nine years by Emperor Augustus
- Herod Antipas became tetrarch of Galilee and other cities
- Herod Philip ruled over territories north and east of the Jordan River
- Herod's Sister Salome ruled over Central Districts of Israel

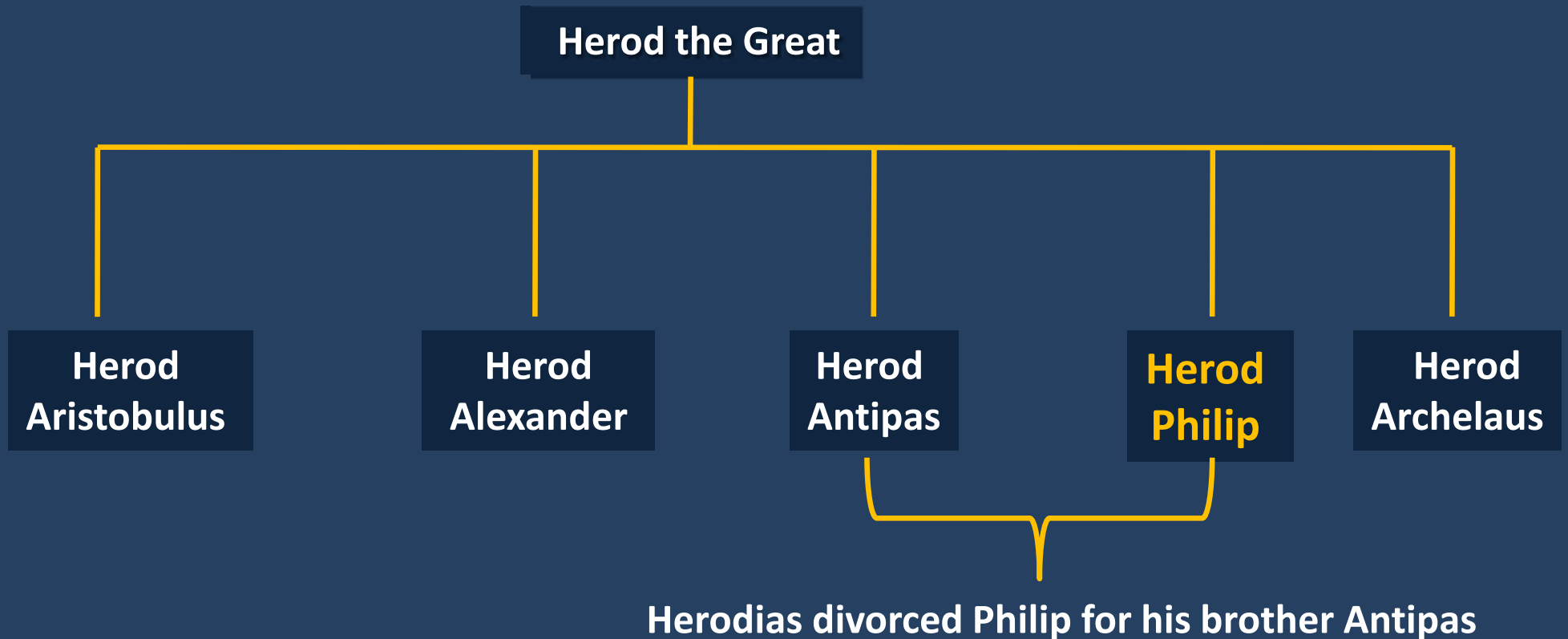
HEROD ANTIPAS AND HIS TERRITORY



HEROD ANTIPAS AND HIS TERRITORY

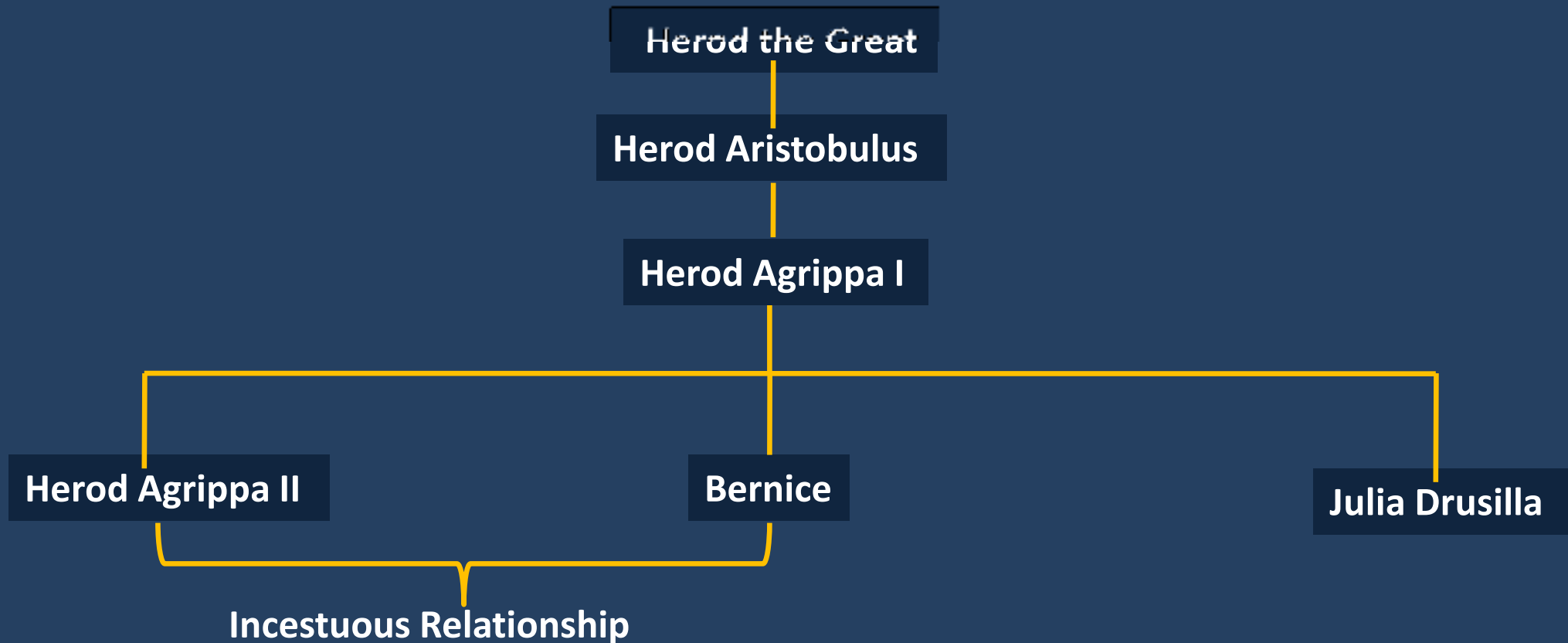
- He divorced his first wife Phasaelis, the daughter of King Aretas IV to marry Herodias.
- Antipas ruled during the ministries of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ
- He ruled Galilee, the part of the kingdom assigned to him
- Antipas had John the Baptist beheaded by the request of Salome the daughter of Herodias. Mark 6:14-16
- He declined to pass judgment on Jesus, sending him back to Pilate Luke 23:7-12
- Herod Antipas in Acts 4:27 was mentioned as one of those guilty of Jesus death
- He was the uncle of Herod Agrippa I, the father of Drusilla the wife of Governor Felix
- Herod Antipas was referred to in Matthew 14:1, Luke 3:1 as Herod the tetrarch(meaning on who governs a fourth part of a kingdom)

HEROD PHILIP AND HIS TERRITORY



- Herod Philip was given the northeast part of his father's kingdom.
- He was the husband of Herodias

PAUL AND THE HOUSE HOLD OF HEROD'S HISTORY



- Paul's understanding about the history of Herod Agrippa I, Julia Drusilla and governor Felix gave rise to this three point sermon.
- RIGHTEOUSNESS
- SELF-CONTROL(TEMERANCE)
- JUDGMENT TO COME

(Acts 24:24-26)

WHO WAS MARCUS JULIUS AGRIPPA I IN THE BIBLE?

- He was the son of Herod Aristobulus, the eldest and murdered son of Herod the Great
- He was the father of Julia Drusilla, Governor Felix wife
- Herod Agrippa I arrested Peter and James and had James the brother of Apostle John beheaded Acts 12:1-3
- As a king, his primary job was to keep the peace of the land. Keeping the peace was his reason for persecuting the early church and killing Apostle James
- He arrested Peter because the killing of James pleased the Jews Acts 12 :3
- He killed the prison keepers because of Peter's miraculous escape Acts 12:17-19

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WHO WAS MARCUS JULIUS AGRIPPA I IN THE BIBLE?

- He was killed by the angel of the Lord because he accepted the glory due God alone ACTS 12:22-23 (God will not share His glory with any man: The story of Paul and Barnabas **Acts 14: 13-16**)
- Herod Agrippa I , the father of Julia Drusilla, Bernice and King Agrippa II ruled as king in Judea
- This King Agrippa II is the one mentioned in (**Acts 25 : 13**) who visited Governor Festus
- Apostle Paul knows all these atrocities committed by Julia Drusilla's father and her own atrocity thus presented his sermon to her pointing the judgment to come.
- Felix her husband was well acquainted with Christianity and the history above. Acts 24:22. 24:24-25

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WHO WAS MARCUS JULIUS AGRIPPA I IN THE BIBLE?

- He must have told his wife about Paul's teachings during his court proceedings that brought about her August visit to the prison
- Paul knowing the history of how she became Felix wife, used the opportunity of her visit to preach to her about what awaits her, "the Judgment that is to come" Acts 24:22. 24:24-25
- Paul got them both with that sermon until governor Felix according to Dr. Luke became afraid. Acts 24:25
- they missed Jesus through Paul's preaching because theirs eyes were evil and nothing in them to accept the gospel
- Kudos to Paul the preacher who stood bold for the gospel irrespective of his physical condition. He said this in Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation....."

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WHO WAS MARCUS JULIUS AGRIPPA I IN THE BIBLE?

- Governor Felix was called back to Rome and was succeeded by Governor Porcius Festus Acts 24:27
- After Two years, Paul's court trial started under the watch of Governor Festus

BREAKING NEWS

THIS IS A COURT NOTICE THAT THE LONG AWAITED CASE BETWEEN ONE APOSTLE PAUL AND THE JEWS WILL RESUME HEARING NEXT WEEK IN ABUJA UNDER THE WATCH OF GOVERNOR PORCIUS FESTUS. ALL CONCERNED PARTIES SHOULD MAKE THEIR WAY TO ABUJA, THANKS.

References

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WE CONTINUE NEXT WEEK

THANKS