



The Gospel of Matthew

Finishing the Course: The Death of John the Baptist Matthew 14:1-12

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus,

and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead; and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him."

For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip.

For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they regarded him as a prophet.

But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod.

Thereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked.

And having been prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist."

And although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests.

And he sent and had John beheaded in the prison.

And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl; and she brought it to her mother.

And his disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus.

Matthew 14:1-12



Death of John the Baptist

Why is this included?

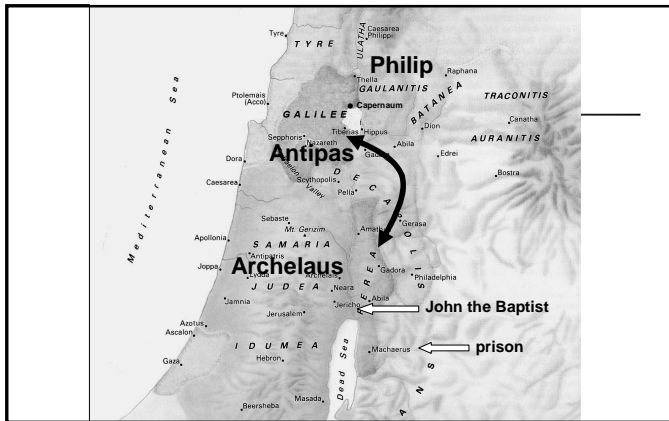
- an illustration of the present nature of the kingdom of heaven – "violent men"
- a foreshadowing of Jesus' rejection and death



Death of John the Baptist

Historical Background

- *Herod the Tetrarch* – the son of Herod the Great; ruled Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39



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- *Herod the Tetrarch* – the son of Herod the Great; ruled Galilee and Perea from 4 B.C. to A.D. 39
- *Herodias* – the wife of Philip, Herod's half brother; her daughter was Salome

Death of John the Baptist

1. The Example of John

- the courage to speak and stand for God's word at any cost
- the refusal to compromise God's word for the sake of personal gain

Death of John the Baptist

2. The Absence of Deliverance

- in this age God does not normally deliver through miraculous means but wills the suffering of His people
- John was delivered from every evil deed and brought safely into God's kingdom

Death of John the Baptist

3. The Foreshadowing of Jesus

- prefigures the unjust execution of Jesus at the hands of wicked men – no immediate deliverance by God
- *Difference*: God raised Jesus from the dead, securing John's and our resurrection