



Prominent Non-Christians

in the New Testament

Fleshly Prominence Became a Point of Stumbling

“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence”

(1 Cor. 1:26)

Herod the Great (37-4 B.C)

- born 73 B.C.
- son of Antipater (Idumaeans blood)
 - Esau (Edomite) stock
- appointed procurator at age of 25
- given tetrarchy by Mark Antony
- Augustus enlarged his privileges

Herod the Great

- architectural builder
 - fortress on Masada



[courtesy of www.holyandphotos.org](http://www.holyandphotos.org)

Herod the Great

- architectural builder
 - fortress on Masada
 - temple (reconstruction of Solomon's)
 - began at 20 BC
 - built of white stone
 - “Then the Jews said, ‘It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?’” (Jn. 2:20, NKJV)*

Herod the Great

- architectural builder
 - fortress on Masada
 - temple (reconstruction of Solomon's)
 - rebuilt temple at Samaria
 - monument over royal tombs at Jerusalem
 - port at Caesarea with temple to Augustus
 - in Jerusalem constructed baths, theater, hippodrome . . . promoted Greek-Roman games

Herod the Great

- character
 - “. . . a monster . . . jealous, cruel, revengeful” (Unger’s Bible Dictionary)
 - Mariamne I
 - Antipater
 - his command to all the principal men of the entire Jewish nation
 - massacre of the innocents (Matt. 2)

Herod the Great

- is a testimony to the effects of evil suspicions and anger
 - 1Timothy 6:4, “he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions”
 - evil suspicion ruled his life
 - permitted him to murder many, even those of his own household

“It’s better to be Herod’s
hog than his son”
(Augustus)

“After a troubled reign of thirty-seven years, he died at Jericho amid great agonies both of body and mind, B.C. 4 i.e., according to the common chronology, in the year in which Jesus was born.”*

(Easton's Bible Dictionary)

Archelaus (4 B.C. – A.D 6)

- “But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee” (Matt. 2:22, NKJV)
 - Herod’s son born 23 BC by Malthace (a Samaritan).
 - reigned 10 years
 - there was good reason why Joseph was afraid to go to Judea
 - banished to Gaul

Herod Antipas (A.D. 6-39)

“For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together” (Acts 4:27, NKJV)

Herod Antipas

- full younger brother of Archelaus
- reigned from 6 A.D. – 39 A.D.
- half brother of Philip
- “His administration was characterized throughout with cunning and crime. He was intensely selfish and utterly destitute of principle” (Unger’s Bible Dictionary)

Herod Antipas

31 On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You."

32 And He said to them, "Go, tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.'

33 "Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.

Luke 13:31-33 (NKJV)

Herod Antipas

“Then He charged them, saying, ‘Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod’”
(Mk. 8:15, NKJV)

Herod Antipas

“But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done, also added this, above all, that he shut John up in prison”

(Lk. 3:19, 20, NKJV)

Herod Antipas

7 And as soon as he knew that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

8 Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceedingly glad; for he had desired for a long time to see Him, because he had heard many things about Him, and he hoped to see some miracle done by Him. . . .

(Luke 23:7-12, NKJV)

Herod Antipas

9 . . . Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing.

10 And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him.

11 Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

12 That very day Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, for previously they had been at enmity with each other.

(Luke 23:7-12, NKJV)

Herod Antipas

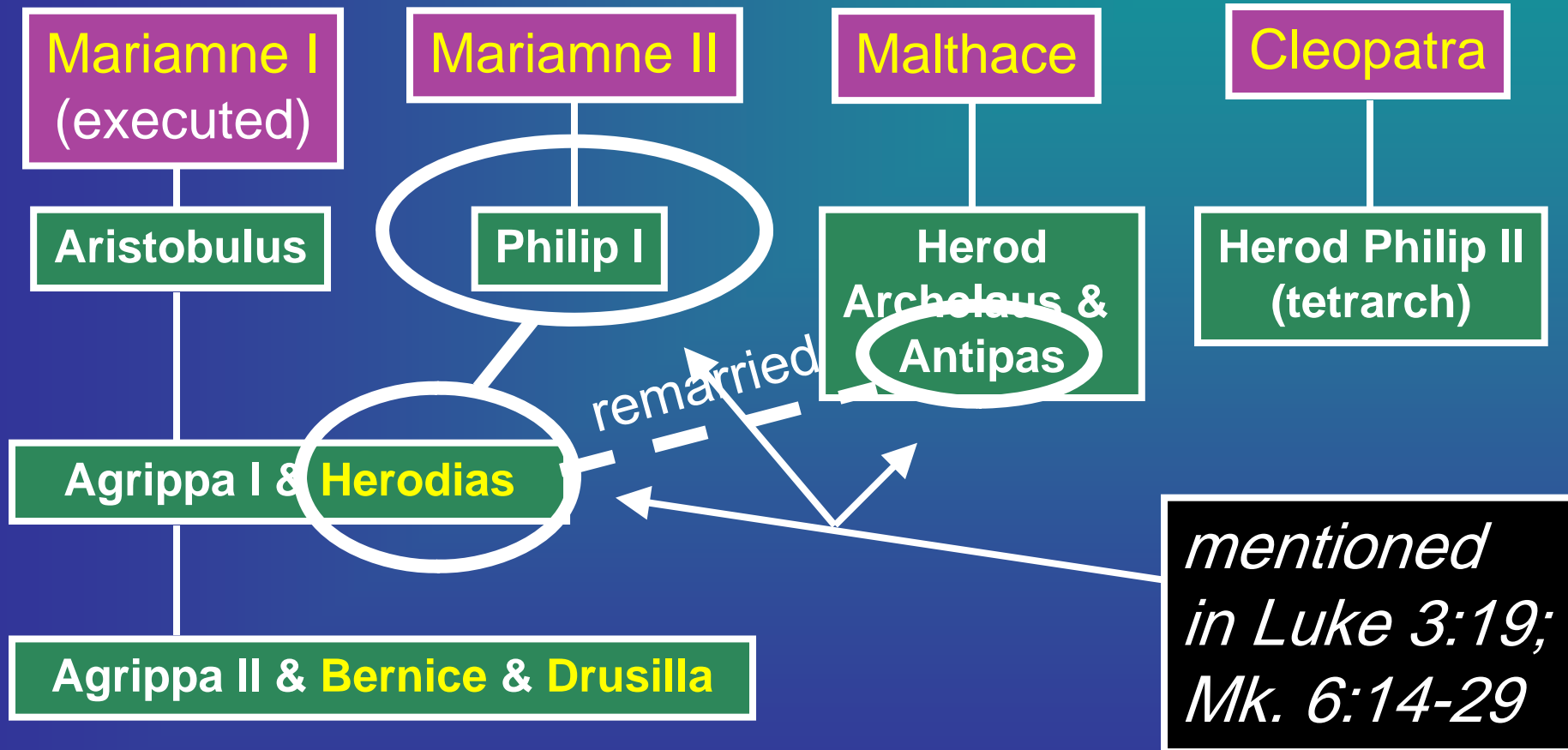
- exposed by nephew, Agrippa I, to Caligula for treason
- sent into perpetual banishment
- died in Spain

Herod Philip II (4 B.C. – A.D. 34)

“Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene” (Lk. 3:1, NKJV)

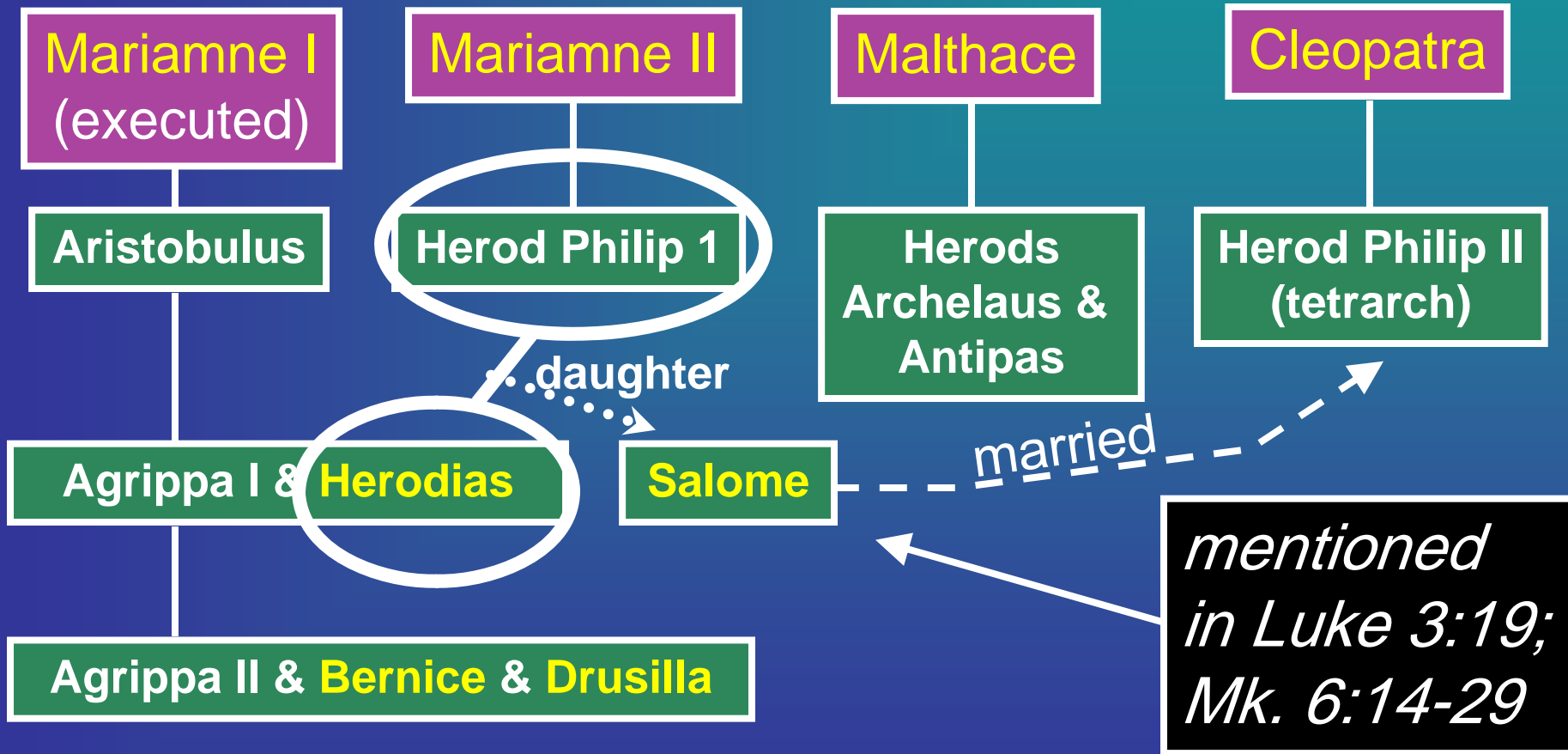
- half brother of Archelaus and Antipas
- tetrarch
- mother was Cleopatra of Jerusalem
- not to be confused with Philip I (of Luke 3:19)

HEROD THE GREAT



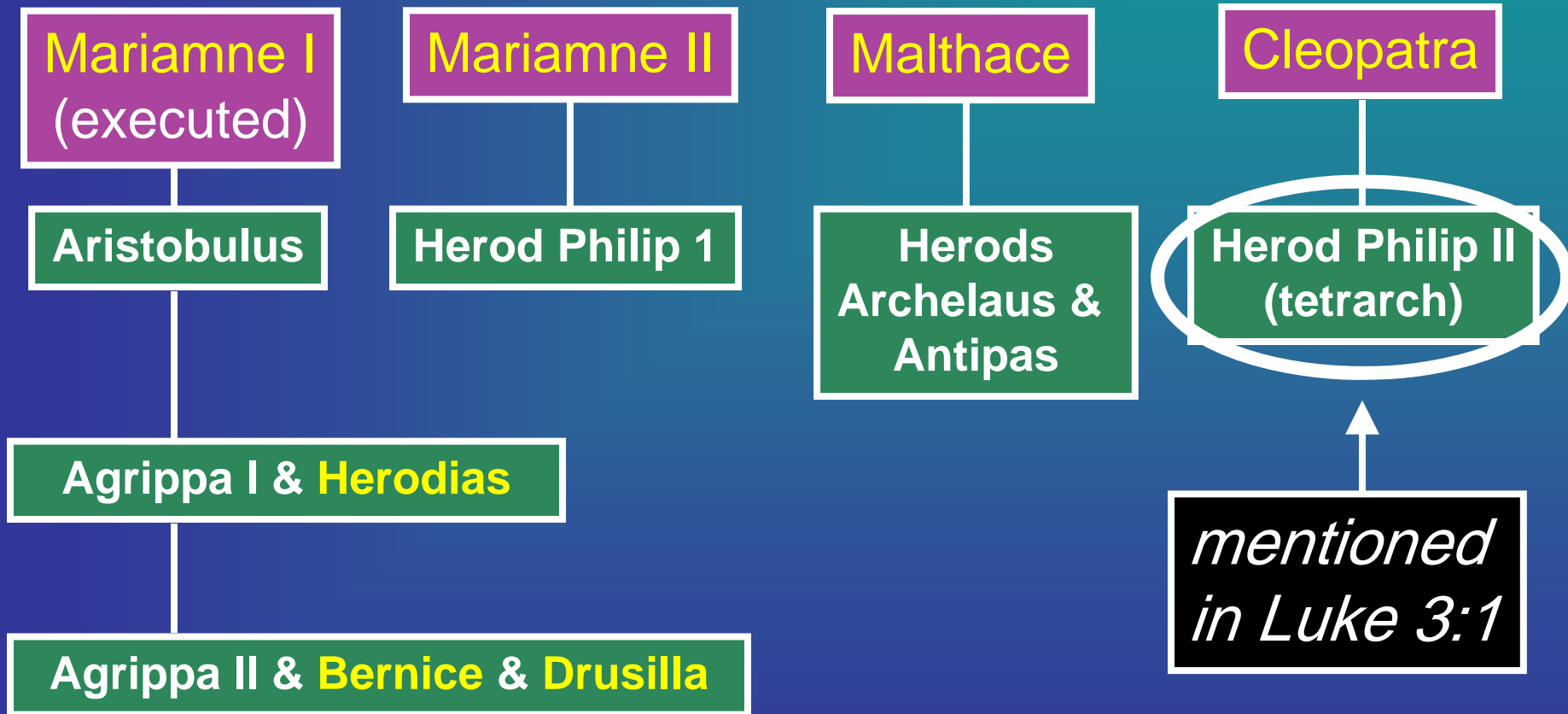
(only the relevant names of our study are mentioned)

HEROD THE GREAT



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Caesarea Philippi



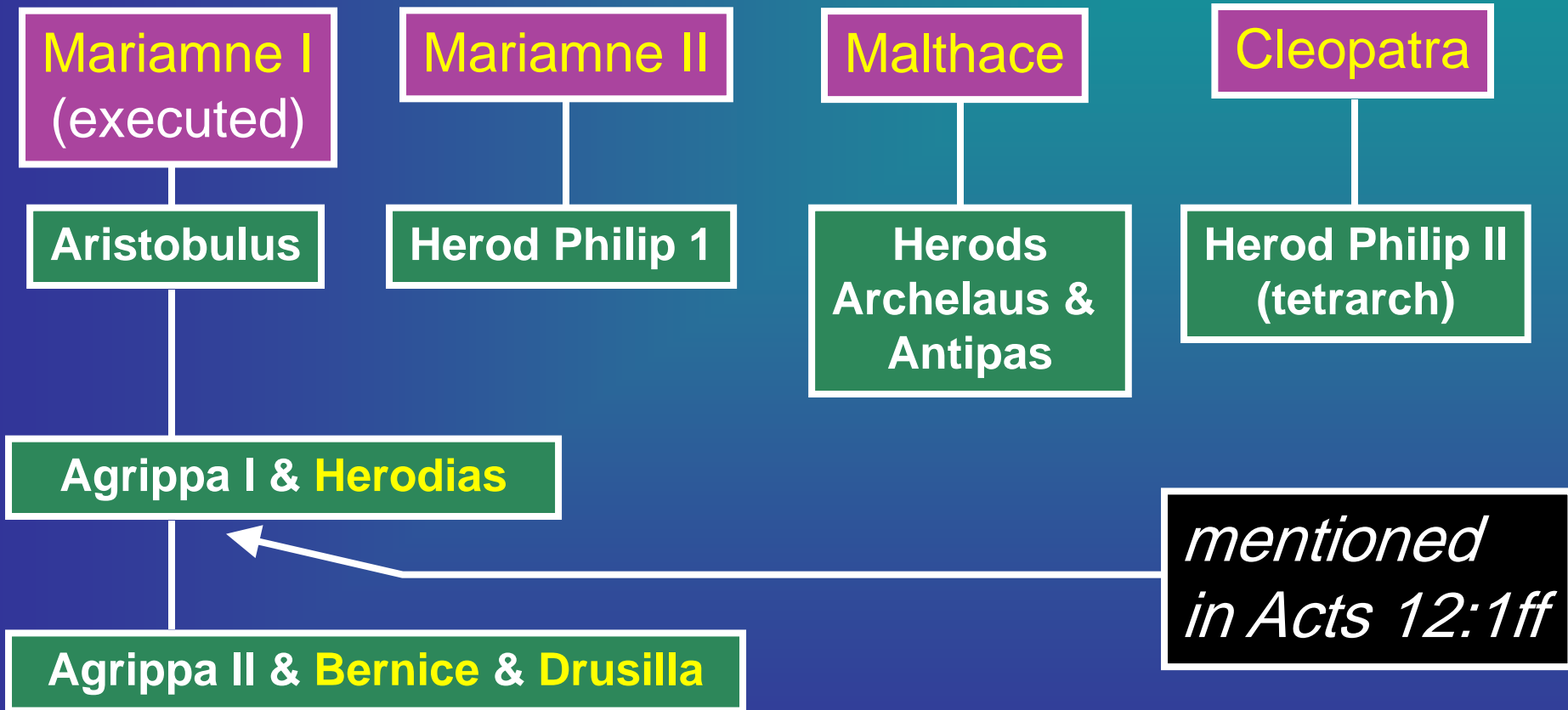
“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’”

(Matt. 16:13, NKJV)

Herod Agrippa I (A.D. 37-44)

- grandson of Herod the Great, son of Aristobulus
 - born 10 B.C.
- reigned four years under Caligula and 3 under Claudius
 - was almost as extensive as his grandfather
- was keenly fond of popularity
 - persecuted the church

HEROD THE GREAT



(only the relevant names of our study are mentioned)

Herod Agrippa I

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church.

2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

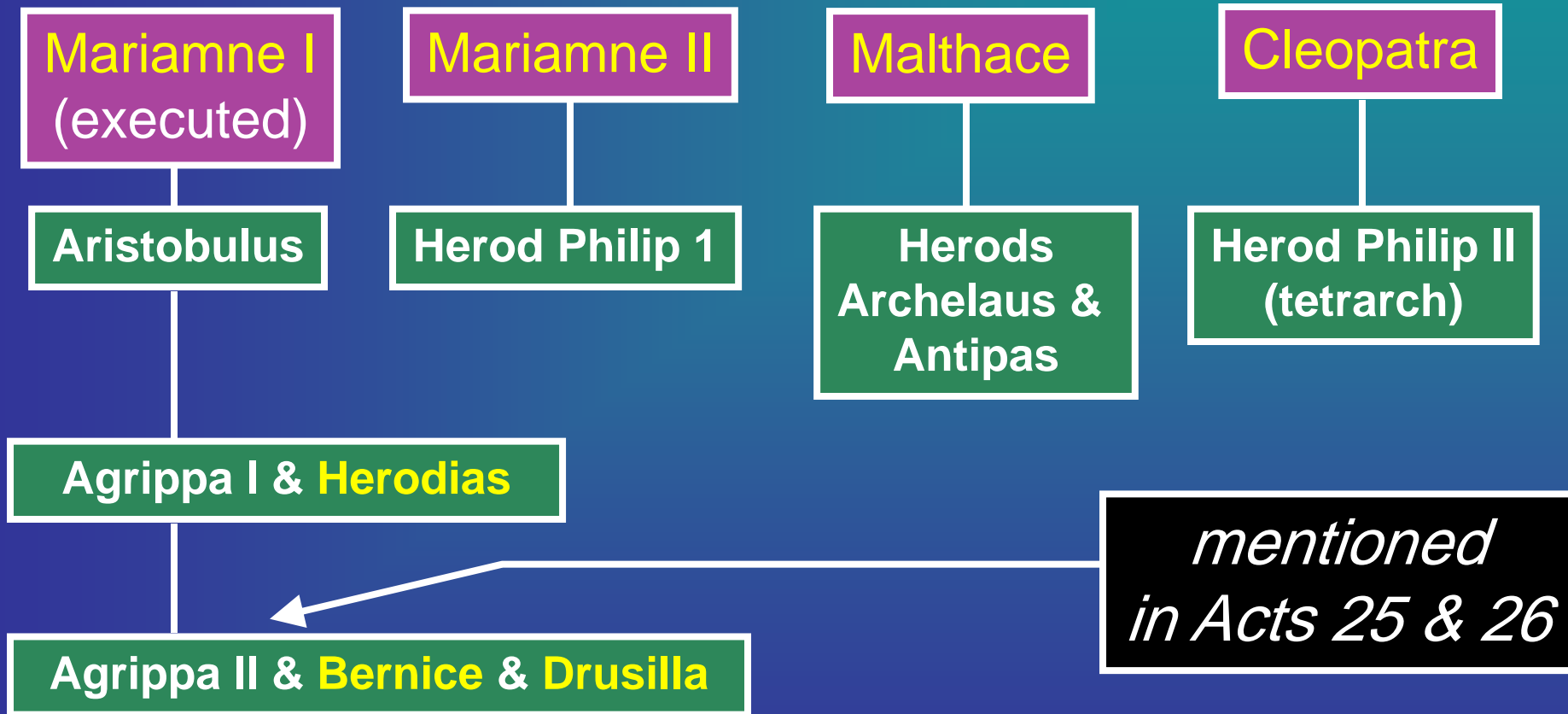
(Acts 12:1-3, NKJV)

Death – Acts 12:20-23

Herod Agrippa II (A.D. 50-70)

- born A.D. 27
- rule over 1/3rd of Palestine
- 17 years old when his father died
- sisters were Bernice and Drusilla
- eventually joined forces with the Romans against his own people
- retired to Rome
- died A.D. 100 at 73 years old

HEROD THE GREAT



(only the relevant names of our study are mentioned)

Others We Could Research

- Pilate
- Felix & Drusilla
- Festus
- etc.

These People

- lived in luxury & fortune
- lived in fame
- didn't necessarily live in happiness
- were of the few of world history to have their names penned in the Holy Scriptures
- died outside the riches of Christ!

God's Word Said The Same Then As It Says Now!

- “. . .for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (Jn. 8:24)
- “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:5)
- “Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God” (Lk. 12:28)

God's Word Said The Same Then As It Says Now!

- “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk. 16:16)
- ‘And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

Luke 9:23

“Then He said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him

DENY HIMSELF,

and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.’”

(NKJV)