

The fourfold Gospel

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The Child Jesus Brought from Egypt to Nazareth

Matt. 2:19-23

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,

20 “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”

21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,

23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Luke 2:39

39 When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

The Child Jesus Brought from Egypt to Nazareth

1. Why did Joseph take Jesus and Mary back to the land of Israel?

Matt. 2: 19-21

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,

20 “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”

21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

2. What was the name of the city where they settled and why?

Matt. 2:22-23

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,

23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The Child Jesus Brought from Egypt to Nazareth

Herod the Great's (72 BC - 4 BC) death

(Matt. 2:19)

A medical explanation for his death is attempted.

A parasitism caused by *Schistosoma haematobium* is suggested as the etiology for chronic renal failure (edema, halitosis and orthopnea) and a "gangrene of genitalia that engendered worms" in the words of Josephus.

The Child Jesus Brought from Egypt to Nazareth

Herod the Great's (72 BC – 4BC) death (Matt. 2:19)

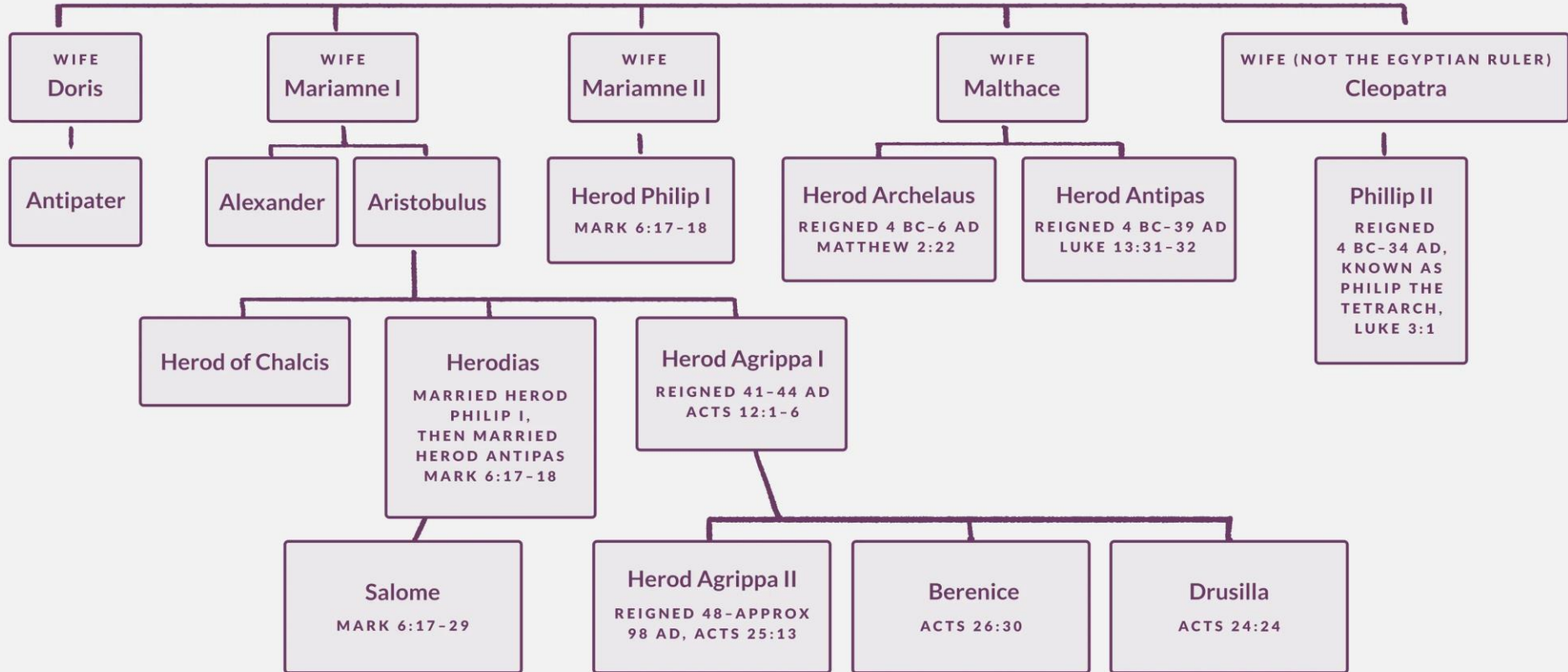
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Hirschmann, who is a **physician** at the **Veterans Affairs Puget Sounds Health Care System** in **Washington state**, said chronic kidney disease could explain nearly all of Herod's symptoms. However, he said the king's case of gangrene (now a rare condition known as Fournier's gangrene) could not be explained by kidney disease and was "unusual."

Hirschmann suspects one of three conditions likely introduced Fournier's gangrene to the leader's "privy parts." An infection in Herod's abdomen could have spread to his groin and rectal areas (Herod is said to have complained of abdominal pain).6

Herod the Great

REIGNED 37 BC, MATTHEW 2



The Child Jesus Brought from Egypt to Nazareth

Herod's sons

Archelaus (Ethnarch)

Judaea

Idumaea

Samaria

Antipas (Tetrarch)

Galilee

Peraca






Philip (Tetrarch)

Trachonitis (with Ituraea)

Batanaea

Auranitis

Herod the Great's kingdom

-  Herod's kingdom (37 to 4 B.C.)
-  Herod Archelaus (4 B.C. to 6 A.D.)
-  Herod Antipas (4 B.C. to 39 A.D.)
-  Philip the Tetrarch (4 B.C. to 34 A.D.)
-  Decapolis city



JESUS LIVING AT NAZARETH AND VISITING JERUSALEM IN HIS 12th YEAR.

Luke 2: 40-45

40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;

43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,

44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

JESUS LIVING AT NAZARETH AND VISITING JERUSALEM IN HIS 12th YEAR.

Luke 2:46-52

46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, **sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.**

47 And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

48 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.”

49 And He said to them, “**Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?**”

50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart.

52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

JESUS LIVING AT NAZARETH AND VISITING JERUSALEM IN HIS 12th YEAR.

3. Why did Joseph take his family to Jerusalem every year?

Luke 2:41

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

4. What was Jesus doing in the temple at the age of 12?

Luke 2:46

46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, **sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.**

The Gospel Writers

John begins his Gospel from eternity, where the Word is found coexistent with God.

Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus, the humanly-generated son of Abraham and David, born in the days of Herod the king.

Luke begins with the birth of John the Baptist, the Messiah's herald.

Mark begins with the ministry of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:1a

1 “Now in those days...”

Mark 1:1

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Luke 3:1-2

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,

2 in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Lysanias - This province is mentioned because it subsequently formed part of the Jewish territory, being given to Herod Agrippa I by the Emperor Claudius about 41 A.D.

Annas had been high priest 7-14 A.D., when he was deposed by the procurator, Gratus.

Caiaphas was son-in-law of and successor to Annas. Luke gives both names, one as the rightful and the other as the acting high priest.¹⁵

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

5. When did John the Baptist start preaching?

Luke 3:1

1 Now in the **fifteenth year** of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,

Tiberius Caesar (41 B.C. – 37 A.D.), stepson of and successor to Augustus, began to reign as joint ruler with Augustus in 14 A.D. The 15th year of his reign is 29 A.D.

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:1b-6

1 "...John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying",

2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!'" (Isa. 40:3; John 1:23)

4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan;

6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins.

Mark 1:2-6

2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I send My messenger ahead of You, (Mal. 3:1)

Who will prepare Your way;

3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.' "

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

6 John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and his diet was locusts and wild honey.

Luke 3:3-6

3 And he came into all the district around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;

4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness,

'Make ready the way of the Lord,

Make His paths straight.

5 'Every ravine will be filled,

And every mountain and hill will be brought low;

The crooked will become straight,

And the rough roads smooth; (Isa. 2:12-17)

6 And all flesh will see the salvation of God.' "

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:1-6

Preaching - Not sermonizing but crying out a message as a king's herald making a proclamation, or a policeman crying "Fire! " in a slumbering town. His discourse was brief and to the point.

In the wilderness of Judaea - that part of the wilderness which John chose for the scene of his ministry is a desert plain lying along the western bank of the Jordan, between Jericho and the Dead Sea.

Kingdom of God – (Dan. 2:44) Matthew speaking to the Israelites.

Luke 3: 3 “...**district around the Jordan**...” - The Jordan valley is called in the Old Testament the Arabah, and by the modern Arabs the Ghor.

Repent is to change the *will* in reference to *sin*, resolving to sin no more.

Luke 3:5 -The Pharisees and Sadducees are the mountains of self-righteousness, needing to be thrown down, and thereby brought to meekness and humility; the outcasts and harlots are the valleys of humiliation, needing to be exalted and filled with hope.

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

6. What was John the Baptist's message?

Matt. 3:1-2

1 "...John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying",

2 "Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand."

Mark 1:4

4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**

Luke 3:3

3 **And he came into all the district around the Jordan,** preaching a **baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins;**

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:7-10

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

10 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Luke 3:7-14

7 So he *began* saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

8 "Therefore bear fruits in keeping with repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father,' for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham.

9 "Indeed the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

10 And the crowds were questioning him, saying, "Then what shall we do?"

11 And he would answer and say to them, "The man who has two tunics is to share with him who has none; and he who has food is to do likewise."

12 And *some tax collectors* also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

13 And he said to them, "Collect no more than what you have been ordered to."

14 *Some soldiers* were questioning him, saying, "And what about us, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages."

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:7; Luke 3:7

“You brood of vipers” - A metaphor for their *likeness* to vipers--as like them as if they had been begotten of them. It is extremely poisonous (Acts 28:6). JOHN here uses the word figuratively, and probably borrows the figure from Isa. 59:5. These Jewish rulers were full of guile and malice, cunning and venom.

“who warned you to flee” - John's baptism, like that of Moses at the Red Sea (1 Cor. 10:2), was a way of escape from destruction.

“from the wrath to come?” - Prophecy foretold that the Messiah's times would be accompanied with wrath (Isa. 63:3-6; Dan. 7:10-26); but the Jews were of the opinion that this wrath would be meted out upon the Gentiles and were not prepared to hear John apply the prophecy to themselves.

Matt. 3:8; Luke 3:8

“Bring forth therefore fruit worthy of repentance” - John had demanded repentance, he now demands the fruits of it. By "fruit " or "fruits," as Luke has it, he means the manner of life which shows a real repentance.

“We have Abraham to our father” -The Jews thought that the Messiah would rule over them as a nation, and that all Jews would, therefore, be by birthright, citizens of his kingdom. They thought that descent from Abraham was all that would be necessary to bring them into that kingdom. The Jews were clearly warned by their prophets that their privileges were not exclusive, and that they would by no means escape just punishment for their sins (Jer. 7:3, 4, Mic. 3:2; Isa. 47:2). John repeated this message, and Jesus reiterated it (Matt. 8:11, 12; Luke 26:24).

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:10; c. Luke 3:9-10

“ And even now the axe (c.) is already laid at the root of the trees; so, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” - The threatened cutting down means the end of the probation of each hearer, when, if found fruitless, he would be cast into the fire.

Luke 3:10

“And the multitudes asked him, saying, What must we do?” - This is the cry of the awakened conscience (Acts 2:37; 16:30; 22:10).

Luke 3: 11-14

Two tunics and food – Share and show mercy to others

The tax collector and soldiers – Don't cheat and steal any more.

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

Matt. 3:11-12

11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Isa. 44:3; Joel 2:28)

12 "His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Mark 1:7-8

7 And he was preaching, and saying, "After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.

8 "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:15-18

15 Now while the people were in a state of expectation and all were wondering in their hearts about John, as to whether he was the Christ,

16 John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

17 "His winnowing fork is in His hand to thoroughly clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into His barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

18 So with many other exhortations he preached the gospel to the people.

John the Baptist's Person and Preaching

7. How would you have responded to John the Baptist's message?

Repent from you sins and be baptized.

The Fourfold Gospel

Week 6

(The Fourfold Gospel, McGarvey (XVII-XX))

- A. Jesus' ministry begins
- B. Jesus Tempted
- C. John Testifies of Jesus