

MATTHEW



She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:21-23

Matthew wants us to see Jesus so that in him we can better see ourselves.

Jesus is Immanuel, God with us, the Savior who has come to save his people from their sins.

The Magi: Humble Receptivity



Francis Collins



King Herod: Violent Resistance

Herod the Great
Governor of Galilee (r. 47–37 B.C.E.)
King of the Jews (r. 37–4 B.C.E.)

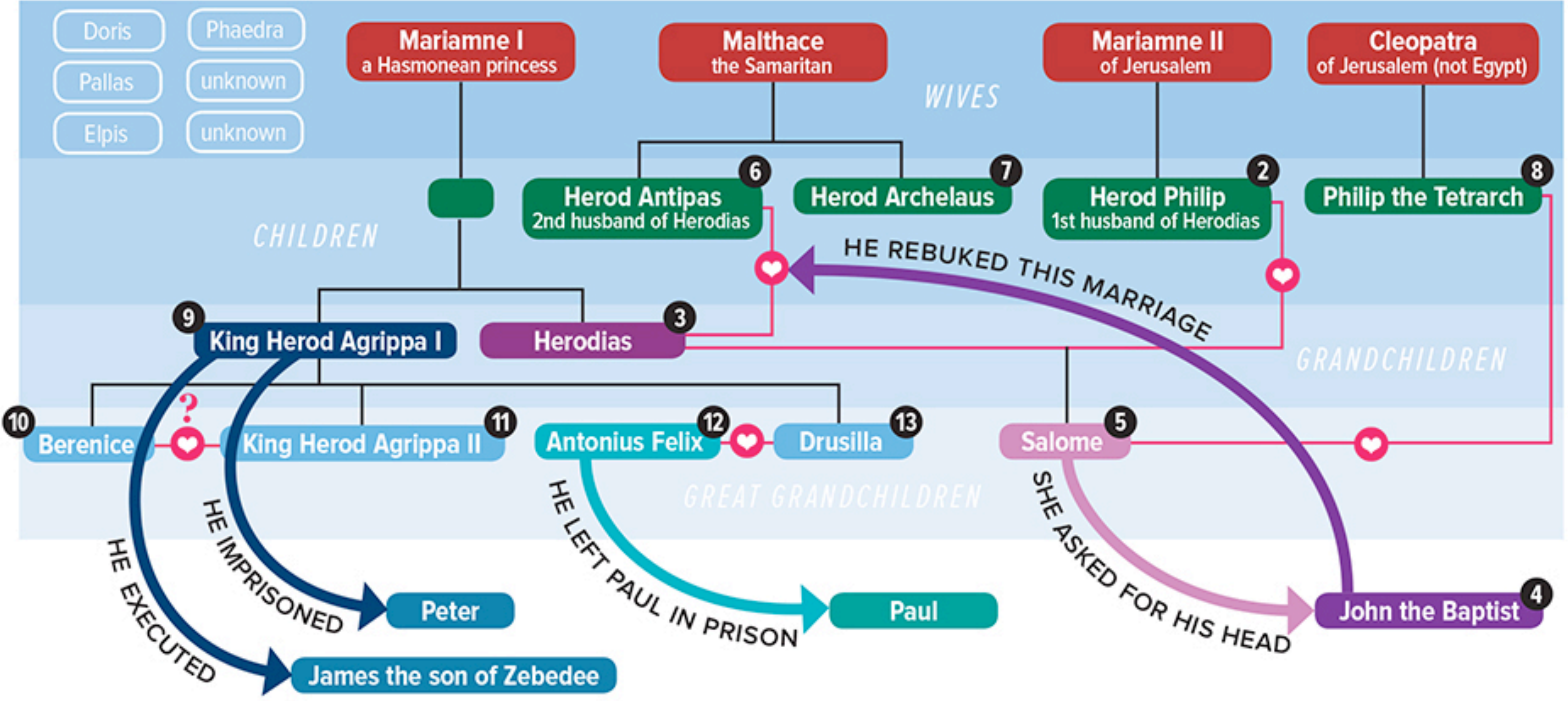
HE TRIED TO KILL

Jesus

OTHER WIVES

- Doris
- Phaedra
- Pallas
- unknown
- Elpis
- unknown

Herod the Great's Family Tree



Too often the political significance of Jesus's birth, a significance that Herod understood all too well, is lost because the church, particularly the church in America, reads the birth as a confirmation of the assumed position that religion has within the larger framework of politics. That is, the birth of Jesus is not seen as a threat to thrones and empires because religion concerns the private. Such a view does not intentionally downplay the importance of the gospel, since it is assumed that the private deals with the most important aspect of our life, which is often labeled "morality." The gospel of Matthew, however, knows no distinction between the public (the political) and the private. Jesus is born into time, threatening the time of Herod and Rome. Jesus, as the genealogy makes clear, is king in the line of David, but he is a king who will redeem kingship from its former state of exile.

Stanley Hauerwas

The theological lesson is this: This who begin by hating the Child end by hurting children. Hating revelation leads to hurting people. If people will be ungodly they will be inhumane...Wherever God is resisted, humanity is attacked.

Dale Bruner

Matthew's Jesus will not rivet his people's attention on an external enemy as most radical movements do, nor will he forge a burning hatred for enemies by which to ignite a revolution. Jesus concentrates the fire of almost his entire Gospel on his church's sins ("He will save his people from their sins")...This Gospel teaches profound self-criticism; it rarely permits God's people to descend to the cheaper, easier, and seemingly more effective demonizing of external enemies.

Dale Bruner

We do not lose control of our lives. What we lose is the illusion that we were ever in control in the first place.

Barbara Brown Taylor

The Child: Saving Representation

The Child Jesus

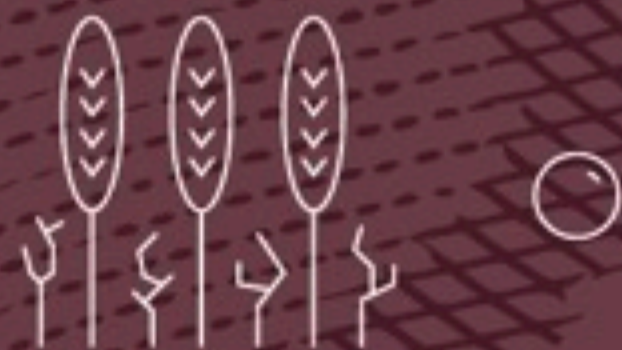
- Human weakness and vulnerability
- How Jesus fulfills Israel's story (and ours)

Fulfillment

Faith means believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse.

Philip Yancey

Invitation



MATTHEW

