

~**ARCHELAUS (44)**

(Ar-che-la'us) [Ruler of the People]

- Son of Herod the Great by his fourth wife, Malthace. **Archelaus** became king in Judea while young Jesus was down in Egypt with Joseph and Mary. Rather than face his tyrannical rule on their return, Joseph settled his family outside **Archelaus** jurisdiction, up in Nazareth of Galilee.
- But hearing that **Archelaus** ruled as king of Judea instead of his father Herod, he became afraid to depart for there. Moreover, being given divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the territory of Galilee. (**Matthew 2:22**)
- And came and dwelt in a city named Nazareth, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets; He will be called a Nazarene. (**Matthew 2:23**)
- **Archelaus** father Herod the Great willed to him the rulership of Judea, Samaria, and Idumea, which was twice the share given to each of the other two sons, and which included the important cities of Jerusalem, Samaria, Joppa, and Caesarea.
- After Herod's death, **Archelaus** endeavored to make his rulership more secure by appearing before Augustus in Rome, in spite of opposers to his claim, including his brother and a delegation of Jews, **Archelaus** was allowed to retain his power, though Augustus made him, not a king, but an ethnarch, a tributary prince ranking higher than a tetrarch. Matthew, however, rightly refers to him as reigning, for the local army had previously proclaimed him king. [*Jewish Antiquities*, by F. Josephus, XVII, 194,195 (viii, 2)]
- **Archelaus** was a cruel ruler and very unpopular with the Jews. In quelling a riot, he once had 3,000 of them ruthlessly slain in the temple grounds, he twice deposed the High Priest, and in addition, his divorce and remarriage were contrary to Jewish Law. Complaints from the Jews and Samaritans to Augustus finally resulted in an investigation and **Archelaus** banishment in the ninth or tenth year of his reign. Judea thereafter was under Roman governor's.

See Also HEROD 1

See Also HEROD 2

