

## ~HEROD 4 (297)

- Herod Agrippa II
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### • Herod Agrippa II

- **Great-grandson of Herod the Great.** He was the son of Herod Agrippa I and his wife Cypros. He was the end of the princes of the Herodian line, according to historians. Agrippa had three sisters, named Bernice, Drusilla, and Mariamne III.
- Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived in Caesarea for a visit of courtesy to Festus. ([Acts of Apostles 25:13](#))
- Some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla his wife, who was a Jewess, and he sent for Paul and listened to him on the belief in Christ Jesus. ([Acts of Apostles 24:24](#))
- He was reared in the imperial household in Rome. When he was only 17 years of age his father died, and Emperor Claudius advisers thought him too young to assume rulership of the dominions of his father.
- Accordingly, Claudius assigned governor's over the territories instead. After remaining in Rome for a time, Agrippa II was given the kingship over Chalcis, a small principality on the western slope of the Anti-Lebanon Range, after his uncle, **Herod** king of Chalcis, died.
- It was not long afterward that Claudius appointed him king over the tetrarchies formerly belonging to Philip and Lysanias.
- In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and **Herod** was district ruler of Galilee, but Philip his brother was district ruler of the country of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was district ruler of Abilene. ([Luke 3:1](#))
- He was also given oversight of the temple of Jerusalem and was invested with the authority to appoint the Jewish High Priests. His domains were further enlarged by Claudius successor Nero, who

granted him Tiberias and Taricheae in Galilee and Julias in Perea with its dependent towns.

- Later, Agrippa turned his attention to building an addition to the palace that had been erected by the Hasmonaean kings in Jerusalem. Because he could now observe from this palace addition what went on in the temple courtyard, the Jews erected a wall blocking his view and also obstructing the view from a certain vantage point for the Roman guards.
- This displeased both **Herod** and Festus, but on appeal of the Jews to Nero, the emperor let the wall remain. Agrippa also beautified Caesarea Philippi, changing its name to Neronias in honor of Nero.
- Following his father's pattern, he built a theater at Berytus, in Phoenicia, expending vast sums on shows there.
- Agrippa carried on an incestuous relationship with his sister Bernice, who had left her husband the king of Cilicia. This unclean, unscriptural relationship with his own sister brought great scandal upon him.
- As for the nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father or the daughter of your mother, whether born in the same household or born outside it, you must not lay bare their nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:9**)
- In case anyone does any of all these detestable things, then the souls doing them must be cut off from among their people. (**Leviticus 18:29**)
- Cursed is the one who lies down with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother. And all the people must say; Amen! (**Deuteronomy 27:22**)
- When it became evident that the Jews rebellion against the Roman yoke, **66-70 C.E.**, would only spell national disaster, Agrippa tried to persuade them to take a more moderate course.
- His appeals being of no avail, he forsook the Jews and attached himself to the Roman army, getting wounded by a slingstone in the actual fighting.

· **Paul's Defense Before Him**

- The Scriptures introduce **King Herod Agrippa II** and his sister Bernice at the time of their courtesy call on Governor Festus, in about the year **58 C.E.**

- Now when some days had passed, **Agrippa** the king and Bernice arrived in Caesarea for a visit of courtesy to Festus. (**Acts of Apostles 25:13**)

#### **.. Festus Had Succeeded Governor Felix**

- It was during the governorship of Felix that the apostle Paul had been accused by the Jews, but Felix, upon leaving office, desired to gain favor with the Jews and left Paul bound.

- But, when two years had elapsed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, and because Felix desired to gain favor with the Jews, he left Paul bound. (**Acts of Apostles 24:27**)

- Incidentally, Felix was a brother-in-law of **Agrippa**, having married his sister Drusilla.

- Some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla his wife, who was a Jewess, and he sent for Paul and listened to him on the belief in Christ Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 24:24**)

- While Paul was awaiting further action on his appeal to Caesar.

- But Paul said in defense; Neither against the Law of the Jews nor against the temple nor against Caesar have I committed any sin. (**Acts of Apostles 25:8**)

- Festus, desiring to gain favor with the Jews, said in reply to Paul; Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and be judged there before me concerning these things? (**Acts of Apostles 25:9**)

- But Paul said; I am standing before the judgment seat of Caesar, where I ought to be judged. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you also are finding out quite well. (**Acts of Apostles 25:10**)

- If, on the one hand, I am really a wrongdoer and have committed anything deserving of death, I do not beg off from dying, if, on the other hand, none of those things exists of which these men accuse me, no man can hand me over to them as a favor. I

appeal to Caesar! (**Acts of Apostles 25:11**)

- Then Festus, after speaking with the assembly of counselors, replied; To Caesar you have appealed. To Caesar you shall go. (**Acts of Apostles 25:12**)
- **King Herod Agrippa** voiced to Governor Festus his desire to hear what Paul had to say.
- Here **Agrippa** said to Festus; I myself would also like to hear the man. Tomorrow, he said; You shall hear him. (**Acts of Apostles 25:22**)
- Paul was glad to make his defense before Agrippa, whom he referred to as being, expert on all the customs as well as the controversies among Jews.
- Agrippa said to Paul; You are permitted to speak in behalf of yourself. Then Paul stretched his hand out and proceeded to say in his defense. (**Acts of Apostles 26:1**)
- Concerning all the things of which I am accused by Jews, King Agrippa, I count myself happy that it is before you I am to make my defense this day. (**Acts of Apostles 26:2**)
- Especially as you are expert on all the customs as well as the controversies among Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. (**Acts of Apostles 26:3**)
- Paul's powerful argument moved Agrippa to say; In a short time you would persuade me to become a Christian. To this Paul answered; I could wish to God that whether in a short time or in a long time not only you but also all those who hear me today would become men such as I also am, with the exception of these bonds.
- Indeed, as to the manner of life from youth up that I led from the beginning among my nation and in Jerusalem, all the Jews. (**Acts of Apostles 26:4**)
- That have been previously acquainted with me from the first know, if they but wish to bear witness, that according to the strictest sect of our form of worship I lived a Pharisee. (**Acts of Apostles 26:5**)

- And yet now for the hope of the promise that was made by God to our forefathers I stand called to judgment. ([Acts of Apostles 26:6](#))
- Whereas our twelve tribes are hoping to attain to the fulfillment of this promise by intensely rendering him sacred service night and day. Concerning this hope I am accused by Jews, O king. ([Acts of Apostles 26:7](#))
- Why is it judged unbelievable among you men that God raises up the dead? ([Acts of Apostles 26:8](#))
- I, for one, really thought within myself I ought to commit many acts of opposition against the name of Jesus the Nazarene. ([Acts of Apostles 26:9](#))
- Which, in fact, I did in Jerusalem, and many of the holy ones I locked up in prisons, as I had received authority from the chief priests, and when they were to be executed, I cast my vote against them. ([Acts of Apostles 26:10](#))
- And by punishing them many times in all the synagogues I tried to force them to make a recantation, and since I was extremely mad against them, I went so far as to persecuting them even in outside cities. ([Acts of Apostles 26:11](#))
- Amid these efforts as I was journeying to Damascus with authority and a commission from the chief priests. ([Acts of Apostles 26:12](#))
- I saw at midday on the road, O king, a light beyond the brilliance of the sun flash from heaven about me and about those journeying with me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:13](#))
- And when we had all fallen to the ground I heard a voice say to me in the Hebrew language, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? To keep kicking against the goads makes it hard for you. ([Acts of Apostles 26:14](#))
- But I said; Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said; I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ([Acts of Apostles 26:15](#))
- Nevertheless, rise and stand on your feet. For to this end I have made myself visible to you, in order to choose you as an

attendant and a witness both of things you have seen and things I shall make you see respecting me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:16](#))

- While I deliver you from this people and from the nations, to whom I am sending you. ([Acts of Apostles 26:17](#))
- To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, in order for them to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by their faith in me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:18](#))
- Wherefore, King Agrippa, I did not become disobedient to the heavenly sight. ([Acts of Apostles 26:19](#))
- But both to those in Damascus first and to those in Jerusalem, and over all the country of Judea, and to the nations I went bringing the message that they should repent and turn to God by doing works that befit repentance. ([Acts of Apostles 26:20](#))
- On account of these things Jews seized me in the temple and attempted to slay me. ([Acts of Apostles 26:21](#))
- However, because I have obtained the help that is from God I continue to this day bearing witness to both small and great, but saying nothing except things the Prophets as well as Moses stated were going to take place. ([Acts of Apostles 26:22](#))
- That the Christ was to suffer and, as the first to be resurrected from the dead, he was going to publish light both to this people and to the nations. ([Acts of Apostles 26:23](#))
- Now as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice; You are going mad, Paul! Great learning is driving you into madness! ([Acts of Apostles 26:24](#))
- But Paul said; I am not going mad, Your Excellency Festus, but I am uttering sayings of truth and of soundness of mind. ([Acts of Apostles 26:25](#))
- In reality, the king to whom I am speaking with freeness of speech well knows about these things, for I am persuaded that not one of these things escapes his notice, for this thing has not been done in a corner. ([Acts of Apostles 26:26](#))

- **Do you, King Agrippa, believe the Prophets? I know you believe. (Acts of Apostles 26:27)**
- **But Agrippa said to Paul; In a short time you would persuade me to become a Christian. (Acts of Apostles 26:28)**
- **At this Paul said; I could wish to God that whether in a short time or in a long time not only you but also all those who hear me today would become men such as I also am, with the exception of these bonds. (Acts of Apostles 26:29)**
- **Agrippa and Festus determined that Paul was innocent but that, since he had appealed to Caesar, he had to be sent to Rome for trial.**
- **And the king rose and so did the governor and Bernice and the men seated with them. (Acts of Apostles 26:30)**
- **But as they withdrew they began talking with one another, saying; This man practices nothing deserving death or bonds. (Acts of Apostles 26:31)**
- **Moreover, Agrippa said to Festus; This man could have been released if he had not appealed to Caesar. (Acts of Apostles 26:32)**
- **Following the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E, Herod Agrippa with his sister Bernice moved to Rome, where he was given the office of praetor. Agrippa died childless in about 100 C.E.**