

~LYSANIAS (28)

(Ly-sa'i-as) [from a root meaning, loose, loosen]

- The district ruler, or tetrarch, of Abilene when John the Baptizer began his ministry **29 C.E.**, during the 15th year of Tiberius Caesar's rule.
- 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**)
- The Roman tetrarchy of Abilene had its capital at Abila, near Damascus of Syria. An inscription from the time of Tiberius Caesar found there commemorates a temple dedication by a freedman of **Lysanias** the tetrarch. [*Corpus Inscriptionum Graecarum*, Vol. 3, No. 4521]
- Because Josephus refers to a **Lysanias** executed about **34 B.C.E.** by Mark Antony at Cleopatra's instigation, some have charged Luke with inaccuracy. [*Jewish Antiquities*, XV, 92 [iv, 1]]
- However, Luke did not err, for the Lysanias he mentions is not the same person as the earlier **Lysanias**, the son of Ptolemy, who, before being executed, ruled, not Abilene, but nearby Chalcis, and who is not called a tetrarch.