

Herod the Great, ruled 40-4 BC (had 7 wives) Mt 2:1-22 (rebuilt temple and executed infants in Bethlehem)

#2 Mariamne I (Executed by Herod 38 BC)

Aristobulus (Executed by Herod 7 BC)

Herod Agrippa I, ruled 41-44 AD killed James, imprisoned Peter Acts 12:1-6, 19-23

King Agrippa II Acts 25:13-27 Acts 26:1-32

Bernice Acts 25:13-23 Acts 26:30

Drusilla (Felix' wife) Acts 24:24

Herodias married Herod Philip, her half-uncle Mt 14:3, 6; married Herod Antipas, her half-uncle Mk 6:17-28 Lk 3:19

Acts 25:10 Paul answered: "I am now standing before Caesar's court, where I ought to be tried. I have not done any wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. (11) If, however, I am guilty of doing anything deserving death, I do not refuse to die. But if the charges brought against me by these Jews are not true, no one has the right to hand me over to them. I appeal to Caesar!" (12) After Festus had conferred with his council, he declared: "You have appealed to Caesar. To Caesar you will go!"

Acts 25:13 A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to Festus.

Agrippa was the son of Herod Agrippa I who put James to death, imprisoned Peter and was later eaten by worms (Acts 12 AD 44). Bernice was Agrippa's sister. She had previously been married to her uncle, Herod King of Chalcis, and to Polemon, King of Cilicia, but had left both to live with her brother as his consort. Later Bernice became the mistress of the emperor Titus

Acts 25:14-19 Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. (15) When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned. (16) "I told them that it is not the Roman custom to hand over anyone before they have faced their accusers and have had an opportunity to defend themselves against the charges.

(17) When they came here with me, I did not delay the case, but convened the court the next day and ordered the man to be brought in. (18) When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. (19) Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.

Acts 25:24-27 Festus said: "King Agrippa, and all who are present with us, you see this man! The whole Jewish community has petitioned me about him in Jerusalem and here in Caesarea, shouting that he ought not to live any longer. (25) I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome. (26) But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. (27) For I think it is unreasonable to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him."

Acts 26:4-5 "The Jewish people all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem. (5) They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee.

Acts 21:24 take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law.

Act 24:14 "But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;

Acts 26:6 And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors that I am on trial today. ...(8)

Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?
(9) "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Acts 26:10 "And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

It would appear from this passage that Paul was a member of the Sanhedrin in his younger days. It would have been necessary for him to have been married at that time, but by the time he wrote I Cor. 7.7 he must have been a widower.

Acts 26:14 We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Goads are a device to hold the back legs of a cow or goat to keep them from kicking the milk bucket over. Goads consist of two sharp thorns/barbs fitting over the leg, fastened together by a chain/strong braid.

Indicative of the strong evidence Paul had witnessed earlier in his time in Jerusalem – miracles performed by Jesus.

Acts 26:19-20 "So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, (20) but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

John the Baptist – Mt 3:8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

2Co 7:10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

Acts 26:24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

Acts 26:26-28 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. (27) King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do." (28) Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

The use of the term “Christian” indicates that the disciples were well known by that name, used in Antioch and only one other time in the NT.

Acts 11:26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

1 Pet 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. (KJV)

Acts 26:29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.