

Episode #2 - Herod

1. It is easy to forget the Biblical history was entangled in world history. What did you learn about Herod Antipater, Herod the Great's father, and his relationships with people like Julius Caesar and Mark Antony?
2. It has been said that if anyone believed that Jesus was the Messiah, it was Herod. What showed Herod's "belief?"
3. When Daniel served in Babylon, he became a part of a group of mystics from a variety of religions who served the King as advisors. Zoroastrianism became its strongest during this period in Babylon and still exists today. What mystical clues were the wise men following in the quest for the King of the Jews? How does Herod respond?
4. Using a site like Wikipedia, look up pictures and information about Herod's Temple, Cesarea Maritime, Herodium Palace Fortress, and Massada. Considering the technology of the day, what are your thoughts about these massive public works projects? Why did he build them?
5. Herod was a very driven, social climber who had great capacity to create and build public structures. If you are highly driven person, how do you try to avoid the Herod Syndrome of doing harm while trying to do good?
6. Our culture is in a current cycle of looking at historical figures - known for their strong contribution to culture in one aspect of their life - while having destructive impacts to individuals or society as a whole in other aspects of their lives. Herod is epitome of this struggle - to appreciate the talent while struggling with their dark side. How have you had to deal with that struggle with historical figures or people you know? With yourself? How could society balance justice and grace?
7. How did the Magi shake up Herod's world?