

## Mark 6:14-29 **Account of the Death of John the Baptist**

14 Now King Herod heard of Him, for His name had become well known. And he said, "John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him." 15 Others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets." 16 But when Herod heard, he said, "This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!"

17 For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; for he had married her. 18 For John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not; 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.

21 Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief men of Galilee. 22 And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give it to you." 23 He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!" 25 Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." 26 And the king was exceedingly sorry; yet, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her. 27 Immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison, 28 brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

#### Herod believes Jesus is John the Baptist risen from the dead.

- ✚ Herod, the Tetrarch of Galilee, [Matthew 14:1, Luke 3:1] was a descendant of King Herod the Great, who attempted to kill Jesus at Bethlehem after His birth and after the Wise Men had departed. [Matthew 2:1-20, Luke 1:5]
- ✚ At the time of Jesus' ministry, Tiberius was Caesar in Rome, Pontius Pilate was Governor of Judea, Herod was Tetrarch of Galilee (Mark calls him king Herod), Philip the brother of Herod was Tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, Lysanias was Tetrarch of Abilene. [Matthew 14:1-12, Mark 6:14-29, Luke 3:1-4], (though Mark called Herod king, he was in reality a Tetrarch. This is confirmable by Josephus Antiquities of the Jews)
- ✚ When Herod the Tetrarch heard the report about all that Jesus was doing, he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him." [Matthew 14:1-2, Mark 6:14, Luke 9:7-9]
- ✚ Others said that Jesus was Elijah, others said, "The Prophet (the one Moses predicted in Deuteronomy 18:15-19), or like one of the prophets." [Mark 6:15]
  - ✧ This agrees with the report told to Jesus when he asked His disciples "Who do men say that I am?" [Matthew 16:13-14, Mark 6:14-16, 8:27-28]

#### Herod's Guilty Conscience

- ✚ Herod had imprisoned John because John had rebuked Herod for taking to wife Herodias his brother Philip's wife while Philip was still alive, and for all the evils Herod had done. [Matthew 14:3-4, Mark 6:17-18, Luke 3:19-20]
  - ✧ Herod wanted to kill John, but was afraid to do it because of fear of the multitude, because the people counted John as a prophet. [Matthew 14:5]

- ✧ According to Mark, Herodias was the one who wanted to kill John, and Herod feared and protected John knowing that he was a just and holy man, and heard him gladly. [\[Mark 6:19-20\]](#)

#### Death and Burial of John the Baptist [\[Matthew 14:6-12, Mark 6:21-29, Luke 9:9\]](#)

- ✧ At the celebration of his birthday, Herod made a rash promise in front of his high ranking guests to the daughter of Herodias who had danced and pleased him.
  - ✧ He offered whatever she asked.
  - ✧ At her mother's prompting, she requested the head of John the Baptist on a platter.
  - ✧ To save face and because of his oath, Herod complied and had John beheaded.
  - ✧ She gave the head to her mother.
- ✧ John's disciples took the body of John and buried it, then they went and told Jesus. [\[Matthew 14:12, Mark 6:29\]](#)
- ✧ A person can easily be trapped by their own words spoken rashly, not knowing what may lay ahead to test those very words.
- ✧ We need to remember, by our words we will be judged. [\[Matthew 12:33-37\]](#)