

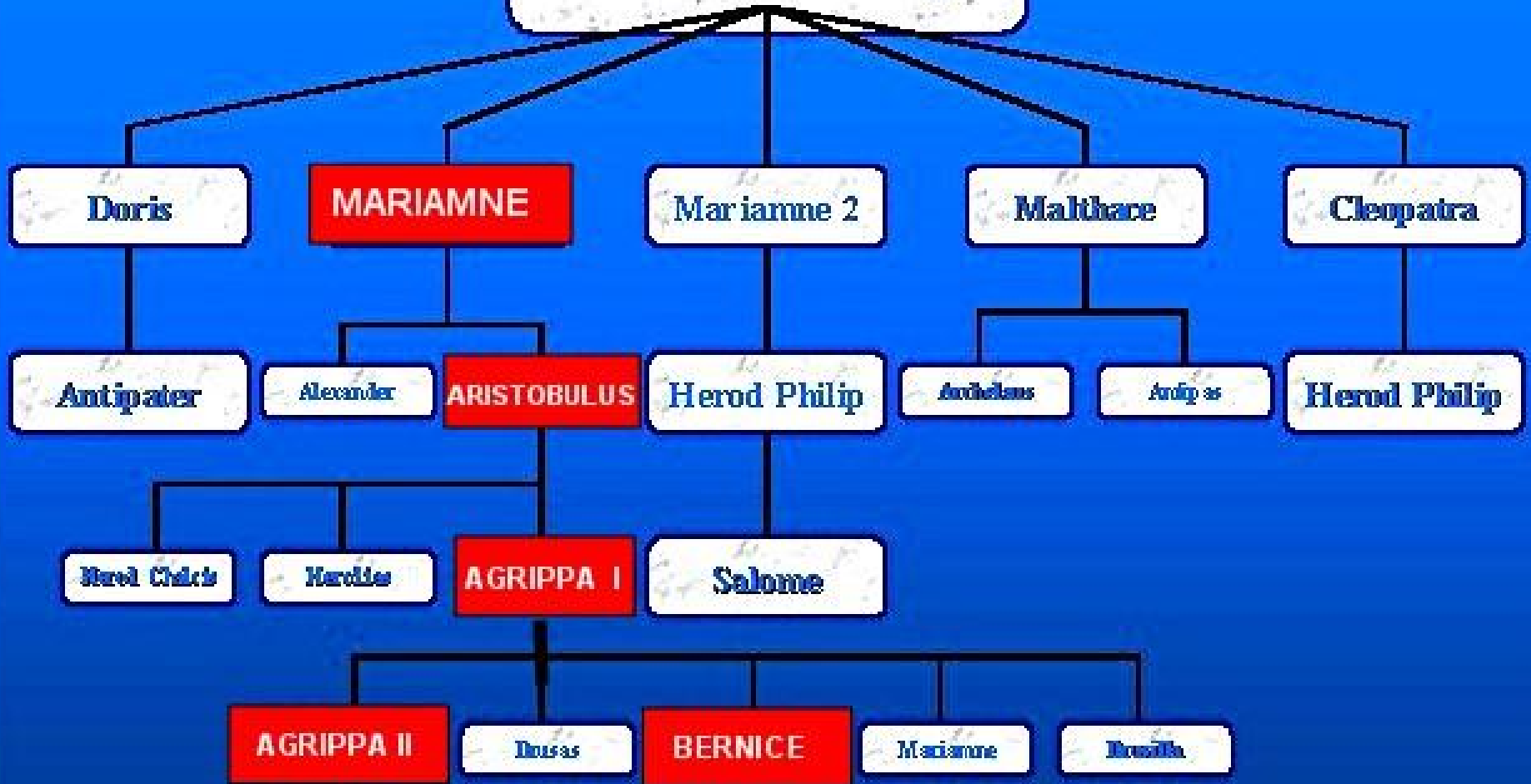
# PAUL'S DEFENSE

- Paul is standing before Festus, Agrippa & Bernice
- They had little interest in Paul's trespasses against Jewish Law
- Romans were concerned about Roman law and maintaining the peace
- No matter the verdict, Paul was going to be sent to Rome because he had already appealed to Caesar



# The Herod Dynasty

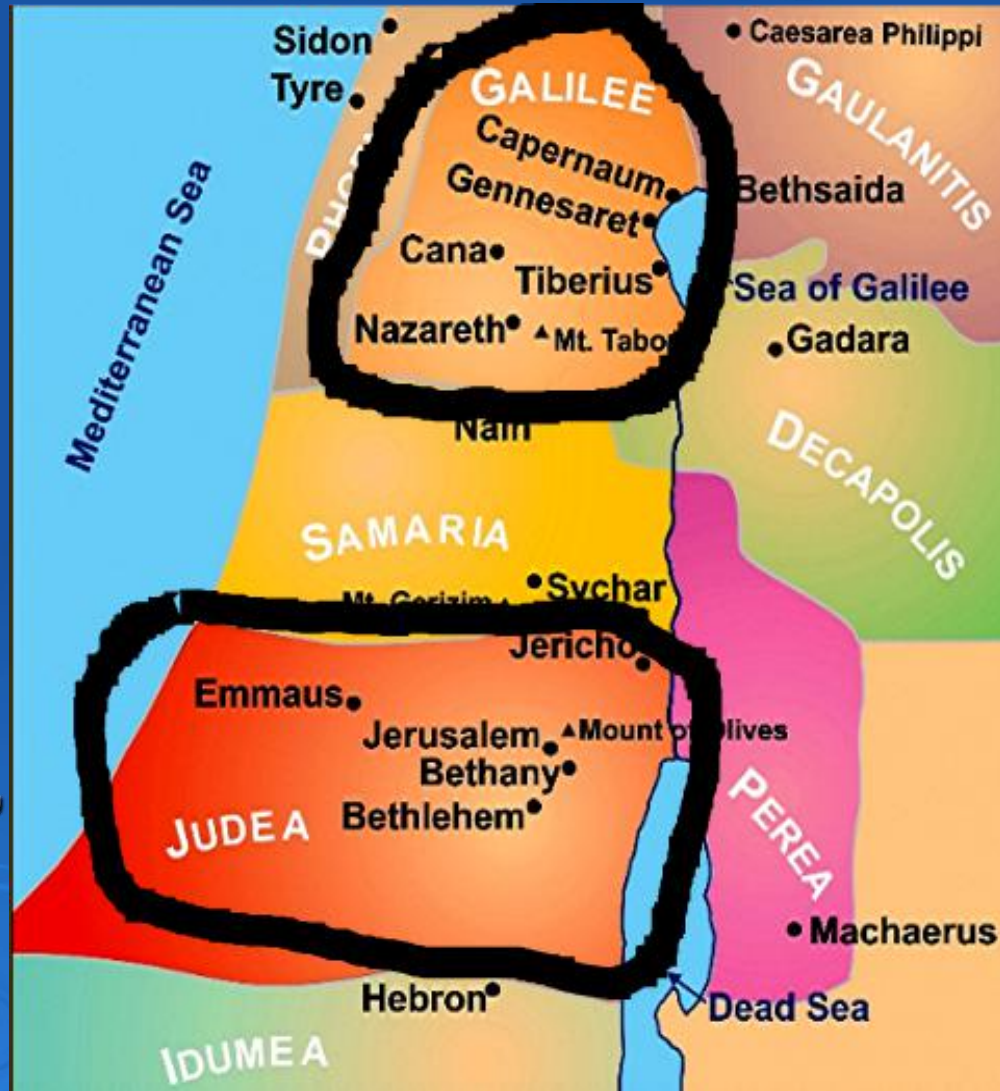
## Herod's Marriages



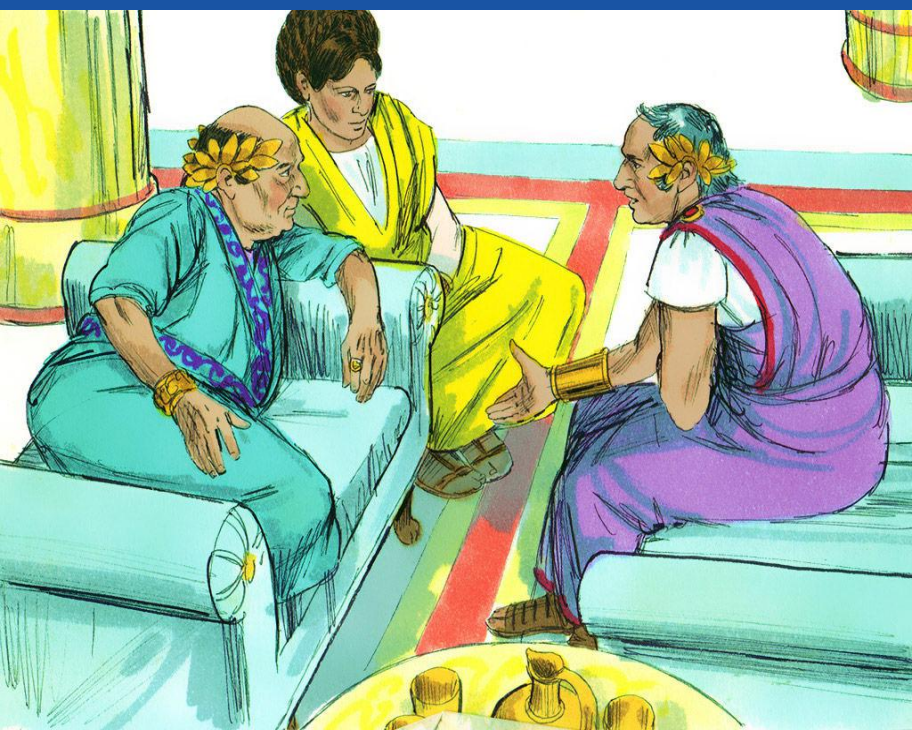


# AGRIPPA AND BERNICE WERE JEWS

- Jewish people accepted Agrippa and Bernice's Jewish identities
- Jews were not seen as inferior in the Roman Empire
- Agrippa was king over Lebanon and territory east
- Hatred for Rome by Jews was greatest in Judea, less so in Galilee, and almost none in the Diaspora







# WHAT DOES FESTUS REPORT TO NERO?

- Festus hoped Agrippa could help him
- Festus suspected the High Priest had an ulterior motive for getting Paul to Jerusalem
- Agrippa and Festus knew Paul was going to Rome no matter what
- Paul says it was “Judeans” who were against him



# ACTS CHAPTER 26

- Agrippa asks Paul to explain himself
- Paul says upfront that his explanation will need patience
- He presents his life's resume
- Not “the” Jews, but rather just “Jews” (certain Jews) opposed him
- The article “the” doesn't exist in this passage in the Greek texts
- Paul says he is a Pharisee and speaks of it as “our” religion
- But...he is also a member of The Way





# PAUL'S *HALAKHAH*

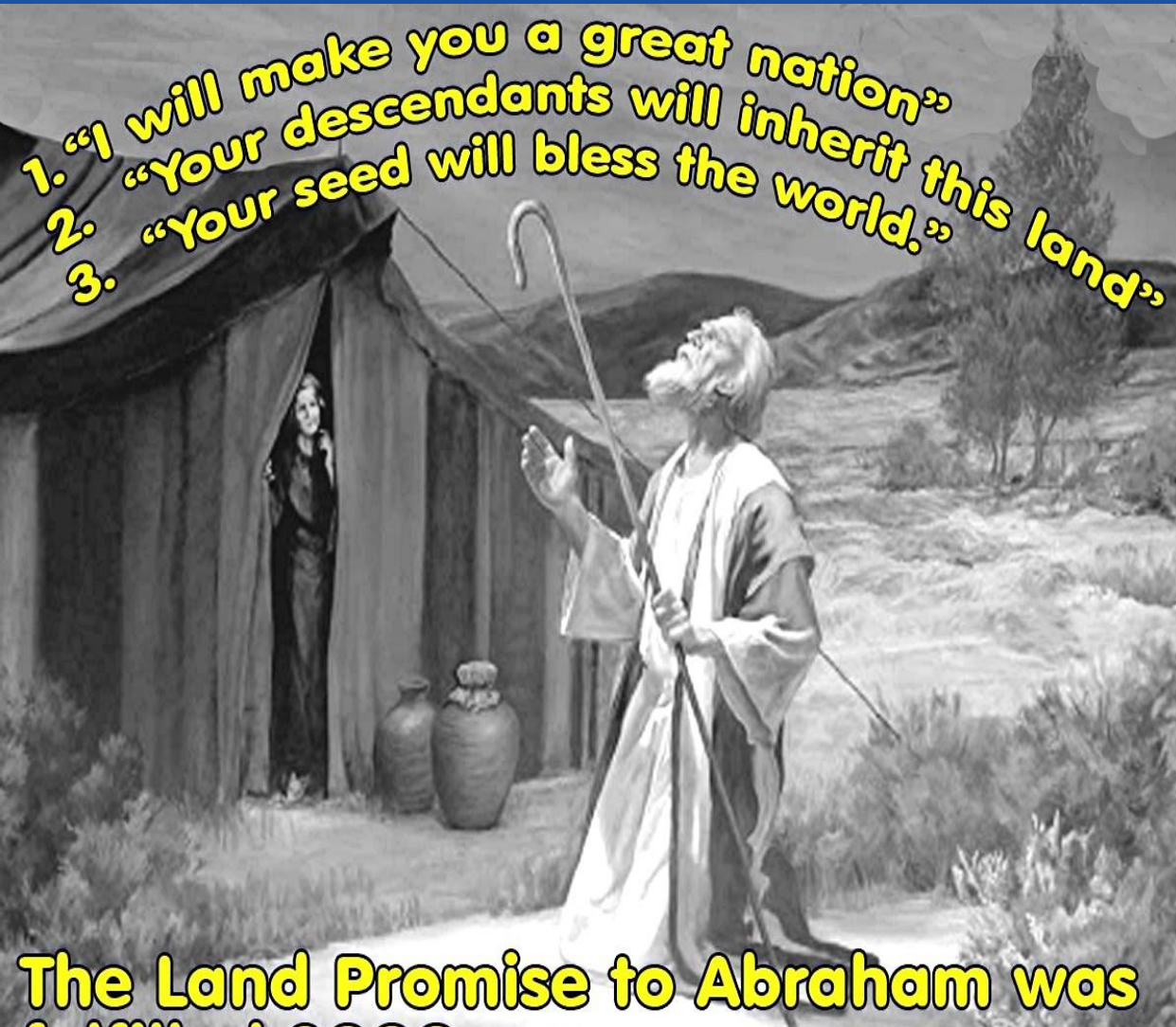


- Paul a Pharisee by party, but also a member of The Way
- He sees no contradiction in that
- Paul adheres to a specific *Halakhah* that includes that taught by Yeshua
- Few actual conflicts between the *Halakhah* of the Pharisees and the *Halakhah* of Christ



# THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

1. "I will make you a great nation"
2. "Your descendants will inherit this land"
3. "Your seed will bless the world."



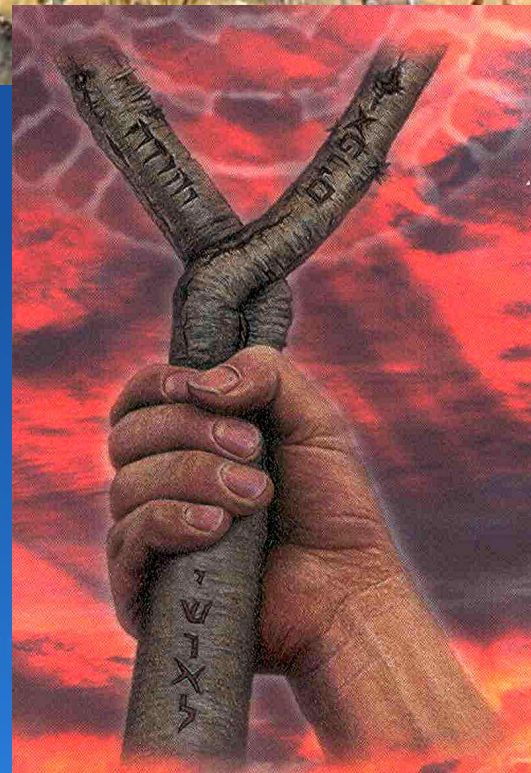
The Land Promise to Abraham was fulfilled 3000 years ago.

- Genesis 12:1-3
- Paul connects resurrection, with the Abrahamic Covenant, and with Yeshua
- 12 tribes hope to attain the promise of the Covenant
- 12 tribes = both houses of Israel (Judah and Ephraim)



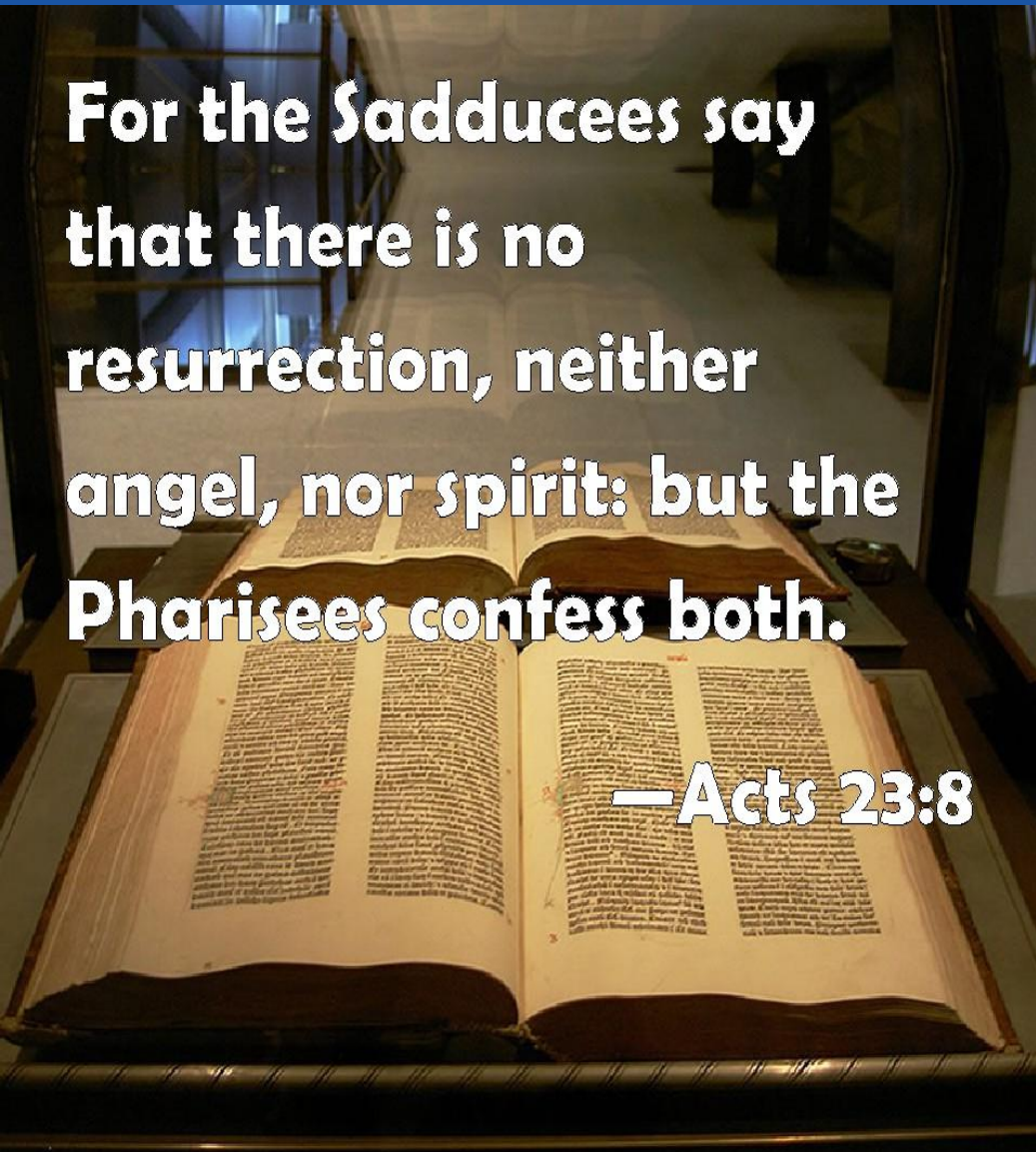
# DID 12 TRIBES RETURN FROM EXILE?

- Standard understanding of Jews in NT times that only Judah had returned
- Some modern Jews claim that they represent all 12 tribes
- No Biblical or historical evidence of Ephraim's return
- Rabbi Akiva said Ephraim would NEVER return
- Rabbi Eliezer said they would eventually
- Paul takes the Pharisaical position that Ephraim's return was still in the future





# WAS PAUL IN TROUBLE OVER THE ISSUE OF RESURRECTION?



**For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both.**

**—Acts 23:8**

- “You people” is Agrippa and Bernice because they are Sadducees
- FAR more Pharisees than Sadducees
- Bodily resurrection was the majority opinion among Jews, so Paul wasn’t out of step
- Paul will connect the issue of resurrection to the Gospel



# PAUL CONFESSES ABOUT HIS OLD SELF

- Paul says he used to use all his energy to arrest Believers
- F.F. Bruce
- Do we hang on to our old traditions, even acknowledging that the Bible says something different?
- Do we find the reality “incredible”, because theory is easier to accept?



**theory VS reality**



# PAUL ADMITS HE KILLED BELIEVERS

- Paul says “he cast his vote”; proves he was with the Sanhedrin
- He tried to get Believers to blaspheme
- Was renouncing Yeshua seen as blaspheming? No!
- Blasphemy brought the death penalty, so it was a tool used to try and get rid of The Way



# Blasphemy

