

# MATTHEW CHAPTER 14

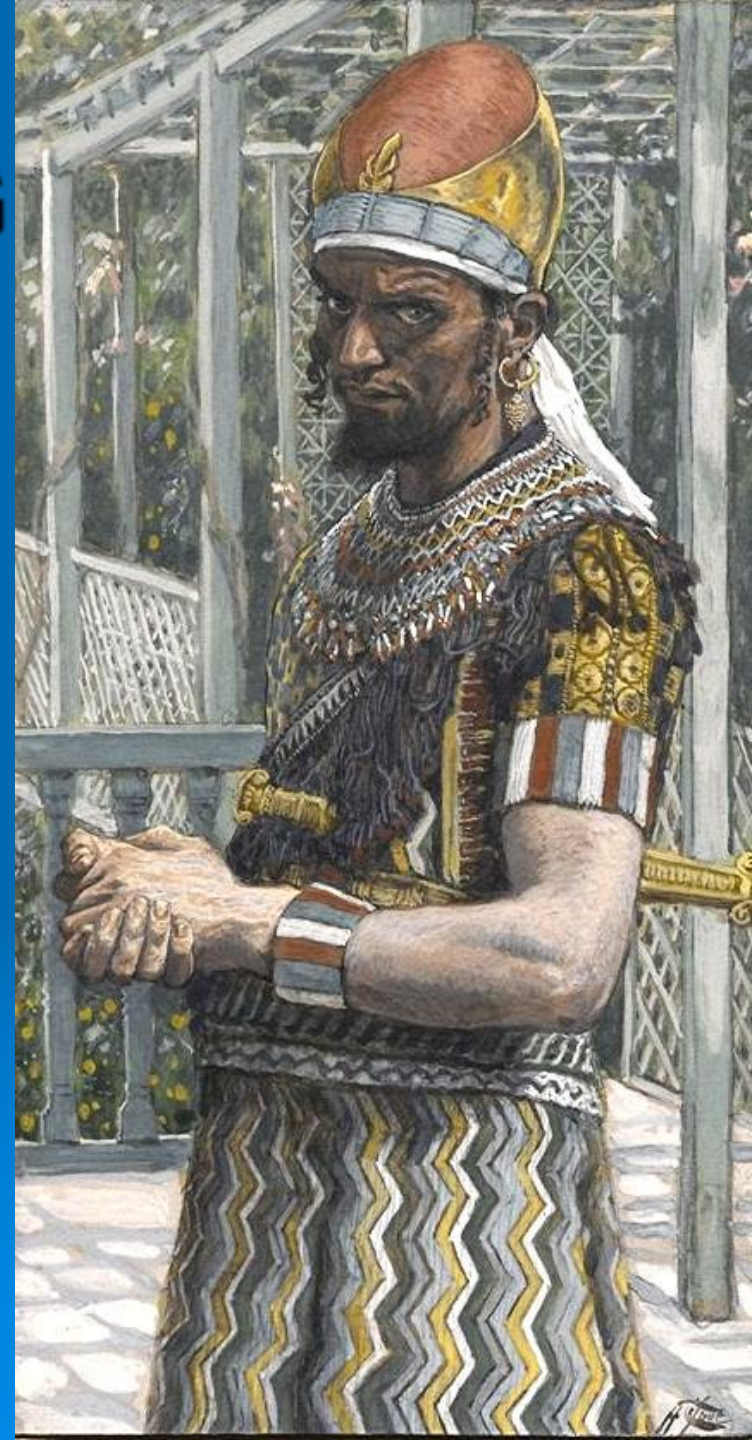


- The subject returns to John the Immerser
- In his day, jail was not the punishment; it was for awaiting trial
- Once John was arrested he more or less knew his ultimate fate
- Yeshua was still a free man, but on track to suffer a fate similar to John's
- Same account in Mark 6:14 – 29, but with some differences

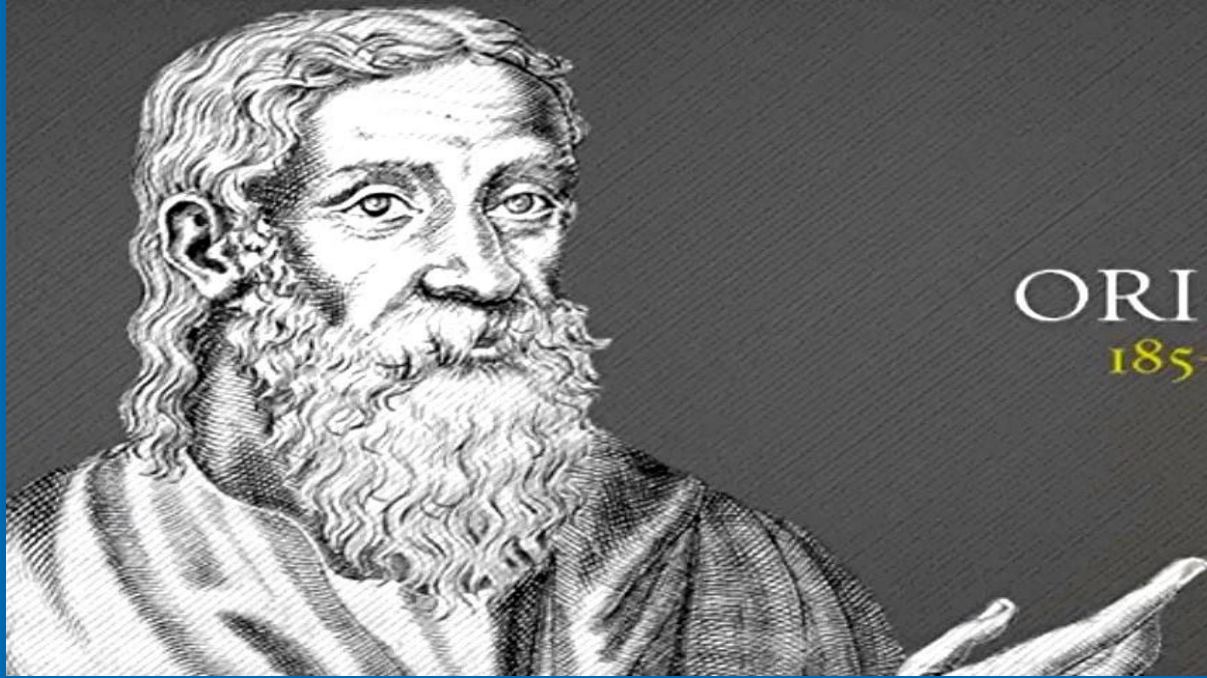


# HEROD ANTIPAS: THE WANNA-BE KING

- In Matthew Herod is *tetrarches*
- In Mark he is *basileus*
- King Herod = Herod the Great, the father of Herod Antipas
- Herod Antipas wanted to be called king. Rome wouldn't allow it and Emperor Caligula removed him from office
- After executing John, Herod heard about Jesus
- Herod and his advisers had some superstitious and strange views







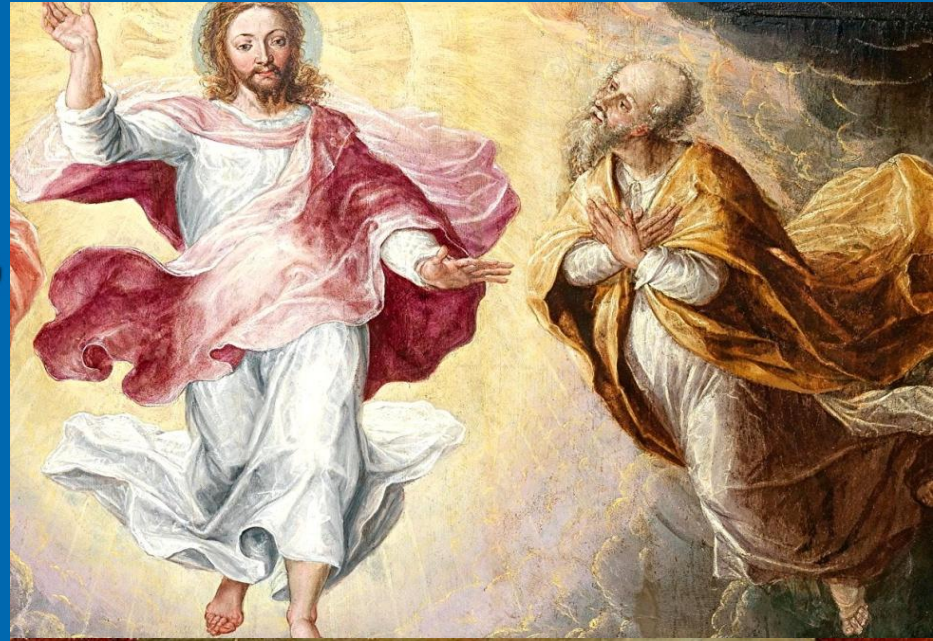
ORIGEN  
185–254

- Origen comments about the mysterious connections between John, Elijah, and Jesus
- ***“...if the powers that worked in John had passed over to Jesus, Jesus was thought by some to actually be John the Baptist...”***
- ***“... It was the spirit and power of Elijah that had returned in John...”***
- ***“... Elijah had appeared in Jesus or that one of the old prophets had arisen...”***



# THE ELIJAH CONNECTION

- No biblical record of John performing miracles
- Herod worried about John as a threat to him
- If John arose from the dead, then the threat re-emerged
- Prophets seen as spiritual giants
- Well known prophecies that Elijah would return
- Matt. 11:13 – 14
- Rome measured the success of their rulers based on keeping the peace





# JOHN SEALS HIS OWN FATE



- Herod moved on John because he condemned his marriage to Herodias
- *Ou exesti* = unlawful
- Not unlawful in the Roman law, but it was in the Law of Moses
- Lev. 20:21
- Herod Antipas married his brother Philip's wife
- It is not the job of Believers to run around pointing out other people's sins
- John hot tempered





- Herod afraid to make John a martyr by executing him
- Herod's step-daughter danced for him at a party
- To impress his guests Herod offered her "up to half my kingdom"
- Esther 5:1 – 3
- This was an expression of pleasure and generosity, not be taken literally





- The step-daughter asks for John's head, on behalf of her mother's wishes
- Herod had made a vow before his guests to give her whatever she wanted, so he was stuck
- No religious significance to Herod's vow
- Some of John's disciples took his corpse and buried it
- A group of John's disciples remained as separate at least through the time of Paul (Acts 19)



# YESHUA SEEKS SOLITUDE

- Although Yeshua left in a boat, the crowds found Him
- The multitudes were NOT coming for salvation; they were coming for healing
- At the end of the day, the disciples show up and tell Yeshua to stop
- They say the people need to go to villages to buy food for supper





# FOOD MIRACLES AND LAWS

- Disciples only brought enough for themselves
- 2Kings 4:42 – 44 Elisha
- God emphasizes the importance of food throughout the Bible, beginning at Creation
- Christianity determined to part ways with God's food laws
- What is food is coupled with the abundance of it





# “Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe...”



- God’s provision for food is at the center of His will
- Yeshua urges folks to feed the hungry
- **P’shat** = feed hungry people with food
- **Remez** = instruct people in God’s Word
- The breaking of bread was Jewish ceremonial practice (not making small pieces to hand out)
- We don’t know the exact moment the miracle of multiplication happened





- Christ's divine character was on display, and He taught the disciples that their truest job was to serve people
- 5 loaves = 5 books of Torah
- 2 fish = the 2 greatest commandments of Torah
- God has no limits on the abundance He can supply
- The daily reality of universal abundance begins only upon the entry into the Millennial Kingdom