

Matthew 14:1-12 **Identity of Jesus – Death of John the Baptist**

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

¹ At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the report about Jesus ² and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him."

Herod's Guilty Conscience

³ For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. ⁴ Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." ⁵ And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

Death and Burial of John the Baptist

⁶ But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. ⁷ Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. ⁸ So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter." ⁹ And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. ¹⁰ So he sent and had John beheaded in prison. ¹¹ And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother.

¹² Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus. 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), 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](#)]