

Survey of the New Testament
“The Middle East in the Days of Jesus”

I. Introduction.

A. Land of Palestine

1. Size
2. Key maps.

B. Maccabean / Hasmonean period – 166 – 63 B.C.

1. People and events.

II. Key rulers.

A. Herod – The Great

1. His rise to power.
2. Brutality.
3. Master builder.
4. Paranoia about the Jews.
5. Intersection with Jesus – Matthew 3:1-8, 12.

B. Herod's Linage

1. Three Sons

a. Archelaus

b. Antipas

c. Philip

2. Herod Agrippa
 - a. Rise to power
 - b. Death of James – Acts 12:1-4
3. Herod Agrippa II
 - a. Paul appeared before him – Acts 25:13 – 26:32.

III. Key sects

A. Pharisees

1. Facts
2. Two groups
 - a. Hillel
 - b. Shammai
3. The scorn of Jesus – Mark 7:8

B. Sadducees

1. Facts
2. Interface with Jesus – Matthew 22:23-32

C. Essenes

1. Key details.

D. Zealots

1. Patriots or terrorists.

E. Scribes