

# *Alêtheia Christian Fellowship*

*December 15, 2019*

*Advent: Joy*

## *“Signs and Wonders”*

*8:00 ~ Service - Communion is for all Christians*

*9:30 ~ Fellowship & Adult Sunday school*

*10:30 ~ Service with the King's Kid's - Communion is for all Christians*

### *NEWS*

*Advent: Joy, Jeremiah 31:11-13, Luke 2:8-10 & Luke 1:39-44*

*Candlelight Service ~ Tuesday afternoon, December 24, at 4:30*

330 N. Somers Rd. (Mail: PO Box 10626) Kalispell, MT 59904~ (406) 755-1776

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**MATTHEW 14:1-12** ~ <sup>1</sup>NASB At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, <sup>2</sup>and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

<sup>3</sup>NASB For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. <sup>4</sup>For John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” <sup>5</sup>Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. <sup>6</sup>But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod, <sup>7</sup>so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. <sup>8</sup>Having been prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” <sup>9</sup>Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. <sup>10</sup>He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. <sup>11</sup>And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. <sup>12</sup>His disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus.

The Bible tells it this way, to put the \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus.

In 175 B.C. Mithridates succeeded his father as Ruler of the Seleucid Empire. He changed his name to Antiochus IV and added Θεου Επιφανους (thě-ü ě-pē-fä-nüs), image of \_\_\_\_\_. We call him, Antiochus Epiphanes.

In 167 B.C., he ordered an altar to Zeus built in the Jerusalem Temple upon which \_\_\_\_\_ were sacrificed.

Encouraged by a priest, and under the command his son Judas Maccabeus, the Jewish rebels drove the Seleucids out.

\_\_\_\_\_ is a celebration of the rededication of the Temple.

The son of Antipater the Idumean and his Nabataean wife was crowned “King of the Jews,” in 37 B.C. His name was \_\_\_\_\_.

Upon his death in 4 B.C., His kingdom was roughly divided into four parts. One fourth was given to his son, Herod Antipas.

**MATTHEW 14:13A ~ <sup>13a</sup>NASB** Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself.

At some point Jesus travelled back to Capernaum and then boarded a boat and sailed across the Sea of Galilee to Gaulanitis and the territory belonging to \_\_\_\_\_, or to the independent Decapolis.

**MATTHEW 14:13B&14 ~ <sup>13b</sup>NASB** and when the people heard of this, they followed Him on foot from the cities. <sup>14</sup>When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Jesus felt compassion. In spite of the fact that we don't deserve the compassion of God, He nevertheless is moved by His \_\_\_\_\_ to grant it. Jesus, tired, rejected, grieving for John, in danger from the authorities, misunderstood by all... "Felt \_\_\_\_\_ for them."

### **MATTHEW 14:15-21 ~ FIVE LOAVES & TWO FISH ~**

<sup>15</sup>NASB When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup>But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!" <sup>17</sup>They said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And He said, "Bring them here to Me." <sup>19</sup>Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, <sup>20</sup>and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve full baskets. <sup>21</sup>There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

Jesus has an alternative solution. He \_\_\_\_\_ them to feed the people.

People love to take these \_\_\_\_\_ allegorically. In addition, they symbolically apply the episode to Communion. It's similar because...

*Fill out the other side, detach this part of the page, and place it in the offering plate or the prayer/suggestion box in the lobby or with an Elder or Deacon of the church.*

*God Bless You!*

“Signs and wonders” in Hebrew, אֹת (ōt), and מֹפֶת (mō-fāt) (Exodus 7:3). It is a near hendiadys that could be translated as a “\_\_\_\_\_ sign.” The wonder part stresses the \_\_\_\_\_ aspect, while the sign part stresses the \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 4:4, <sup>4NIV</sup>Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. God humbled the people by causing them to be hungry and then \_\_\_\_\_ their need with manna. It was to build \_\_\_\_\_ in God.

Trust in God, not in \_\_\_\_\_. Trust in God by obeying His commands (John 4:34).

Genesis 22:8, <sup>8NIV</sup>“God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” Was Abraham, right? (John 8:56, John 1:29, Revelation 22:3).

John 6:27, <sup>27NIV</sup>“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.”

<sup>35NIV</sup>“Then Jesus declared, “I AM the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

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Check all that apply – detach and place in the offering or the prayer box

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to talk with the pastor about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want prayer for \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to volunteer to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I want more information about \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Welcome Friends*

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO  
**MATTHEW**  
A CLASH OF KINGDOMS

*Alêtheia Christian Fellowship*

Alêtheia ~ Matthew 14a ~ 121519



Matthew 14:1&2 ~ 1NASBA At that time Herod the



tetrarch heard the news about Jesus, and said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead, and that is why miraculous powers are at work in him.”

So that’s interesting... Superstitious nonsense, but interesting... Let’s continue...



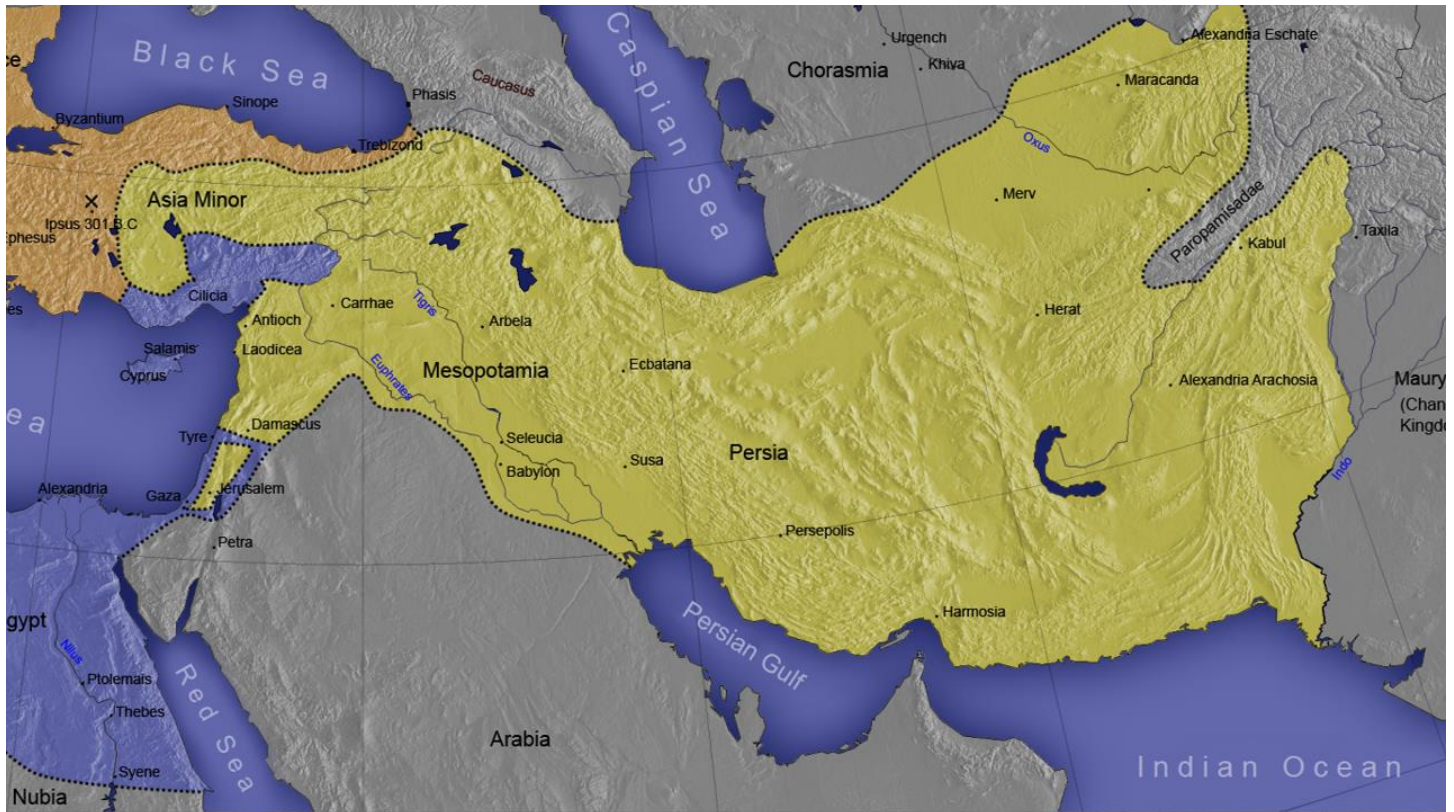
Matthew 14:3-12 ~ 3NASB For when Herod had John arrested, he bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. 4 For John had been saying to him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” 5 Although Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded John as a prophet. 6 But when Herod’s birthday came, the

daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod, 7so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. 8Having been prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist.” 9Although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests. 10He sent and had John beheaded in the prison. 11And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. 12His disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus.

You probably noticed that this is a strange way to unfold the events. Telling us about Herod’s superstitious belief and then giving us the reason, he had such thoughts. It’s strange to us, because we are such linear thinkers. We would tell the story about John’s ministry, His criticism of Herod and Herodias, His arrest and execution by them, and then tell about how Herod started thinking that Jesus was a reincarnated John.

The Bible tells it this way, to put the focus on Jesus, rather than on John, or Herod, or Herodias, or her daughter. If you look closely, you’ll find that Matthew

employs little techniques to always keep the focus on Jesus. Herod here, first called the “Tetrarch” and then in verse 9, the “King,” is not the guy who killed all the baby boys in Bethlehem, but his son Herod Antipas.



Let's talk a bit about the Herodian Dynasty. We'll start with the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah, a holiday that roughly coincides with Christmas.

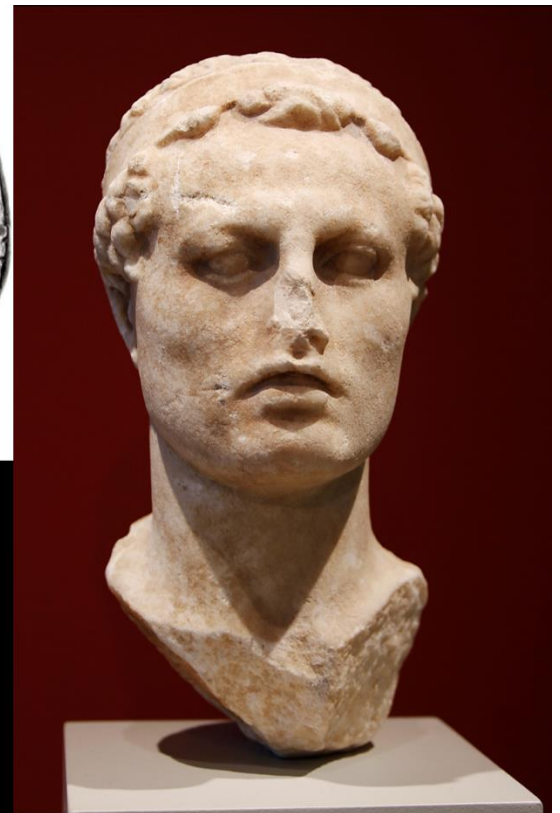
In 175 B.C. a dude named Mithridates succeeded his father Antiochus the Great as the Greek Ruler of the Seleucid Empire. That empire stretched from India and China in the east to central Turkey in the west and included the Jewish homeland.



Mithridates was unhappy that his empire was so diverse in customs, language and religion, so began a crackdown empire-wide on non-Hellenistic, meaning non-Greek practices.



Mithridates,  
Antiochus IV Epiphanes,  
(The image of God)  
Born 215, Reign 176-164 B.C.



To increase his power, he changed his name to Antiochus IV to remind people who his father was and when that wasn't enough, he added to his name Θεου Επιφανους, The image of God. We call him, Antiochus Epiphanes. His coin says in Greek, "King Antiochus, image of god, bearer of victory." His goal was to get everyone in his empire embracing Greek culture in order to foster unity and strength.

As part of his reforms, he outlawed many non-Greek religious practices on pain of death, which included many Jewish practices like circumcision and celebration of the Passover. In 167 B.C., he ordered an altar to Zeus built in the Jerusalem Temple upon which pigs were sacrificed.

That was too much for the more devout Jews and they rebelled against the most powerful military on the planet at that time. Encouraged by a priest, and under the command his son Judas Maccabeus, the rebels drove the Seleucids out.

How? God, of course, but the way he did it was to give the Seleucids bigger problems. The Parthian people around the Caspian Sea – essentially Iranians – also rebelled and they had a much bigger army.

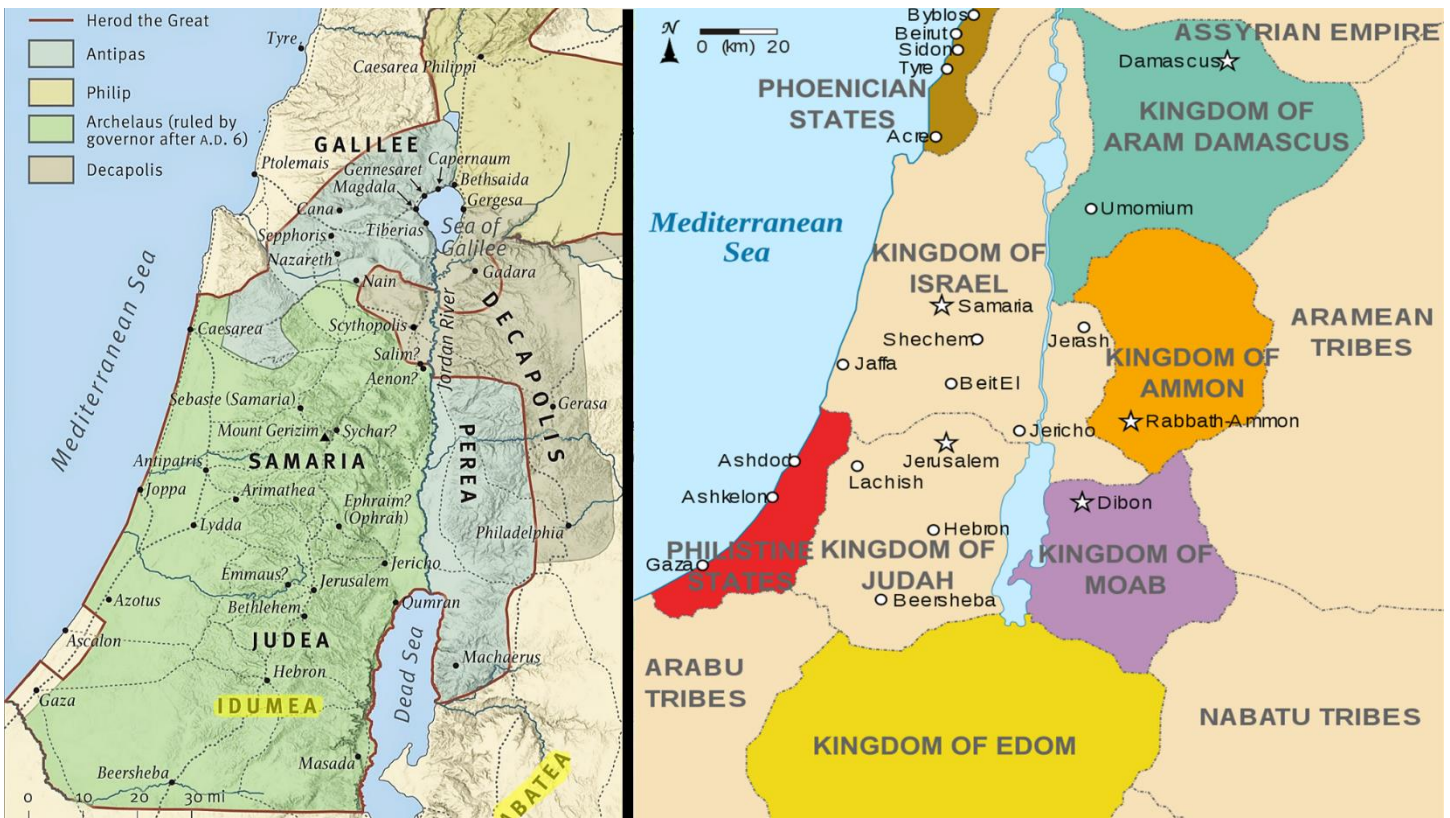
It began a 100-year period of Jewish self-rule, for the most part, which ended in 63 B.C. with the Roman conquest and occupation.



Once the Maccabees gained control of Jerusalem, they cleansed the Temple. Hanukkah is a celebration of that rededication of the Jerusalem Temple to the true God. Hanukkah, in Hebrew, actually means to dedicate.

I bring it up because our Jewish friends will start their 8-day celebration next Sunday evening, but more than that to say that the Jewish army that ran the Seleucids out of town didn't stop there. They went on to conquer other nearby areas and the people who inhabited them. The Jews forced those folks to convert, leave, or die. "There is nothing new under the sun."



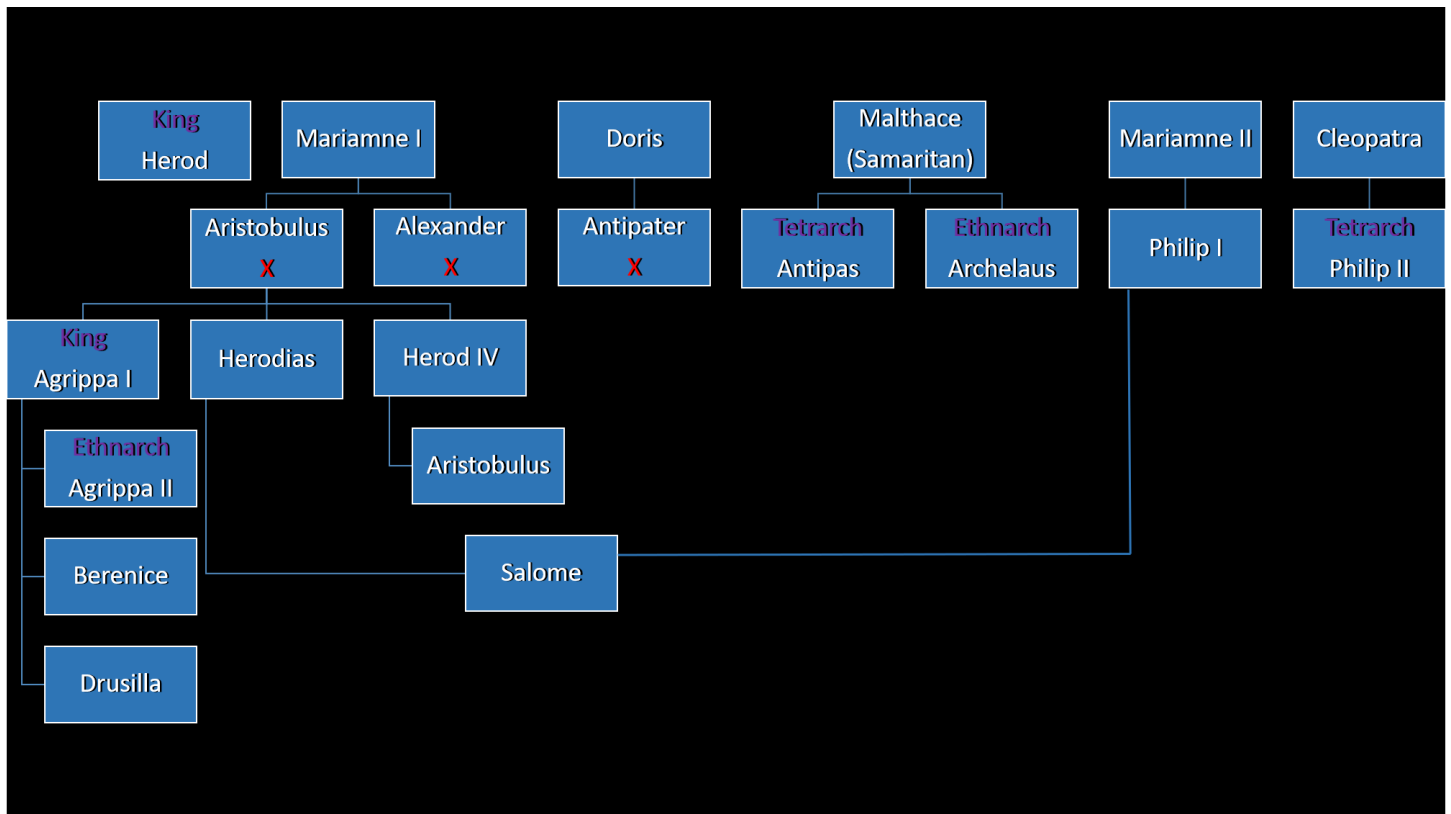


One such area was Edom to the southeast, The Edomites otherwise known as the Idumeans mostly converted to Judaism. One such person was a dude named Antipater. He became a chief advisor to the Jewish King. Antipater gained even more power when Rome took over, eventually being named governor and paving the way for his sons.

His wife was a Nabataean noble woman (the Nabataeans were Arabs with their capital city of Petra). For a while, in the 40's B.C., he and his two sons pretty much ran the show. The Jewish royals didn't like that and were able to kill Antipater and his older son, but with Rome's help, the younger son was able to subdue



the royals and was himself named “King of the Jews,” in 37 B.C. His name was Herod.



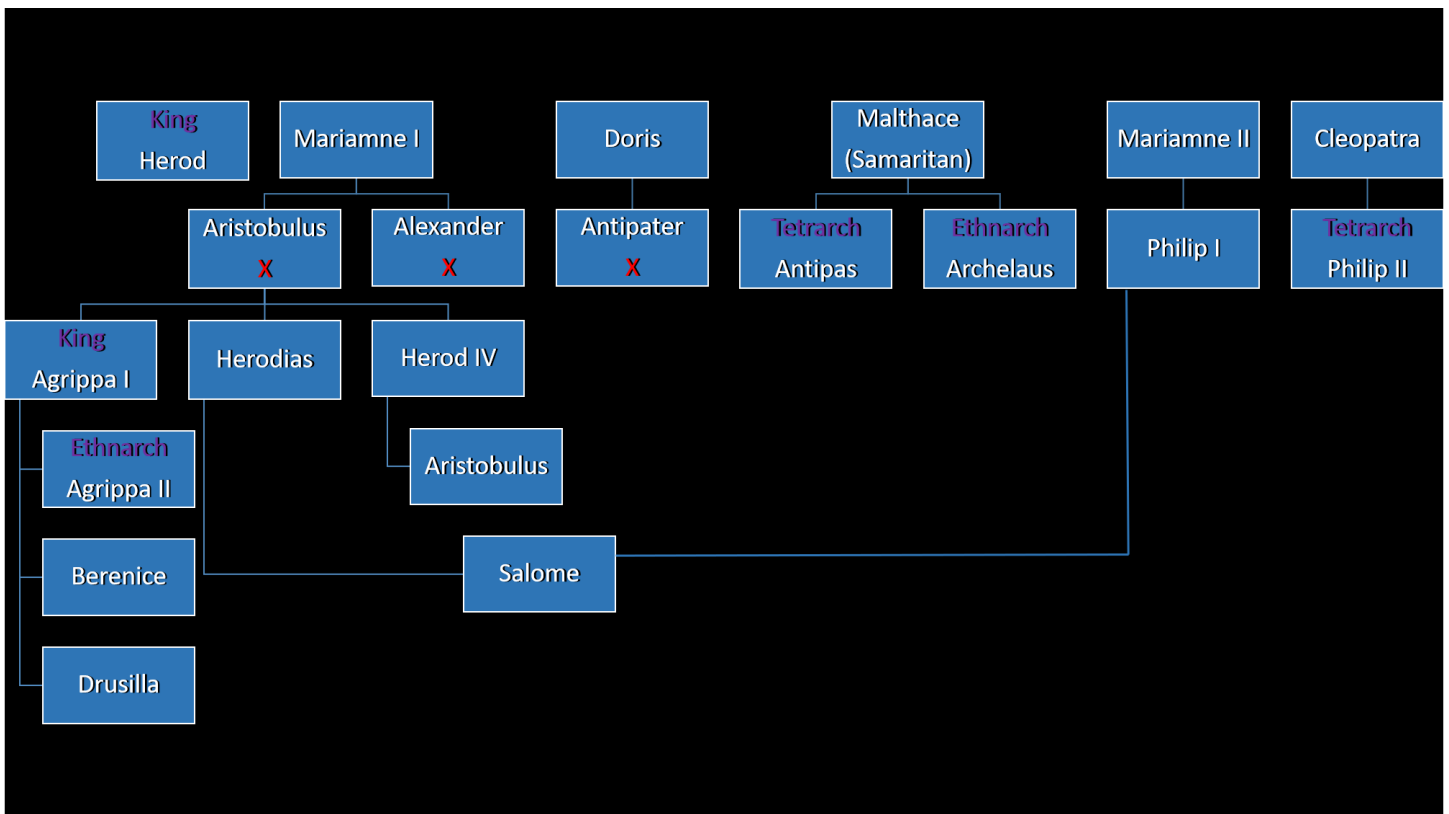
Half Edomite, half Arab, less Jewish than Me, Herod became the sole ruler of all the Jews.

He had many wives; I've listed the most important ones for our purposes. He executed his sons Aristobulus, Alexander and Antipater... To which the Emperor Augustus quipped, “I'd rather be Herod's pig, than his son.”



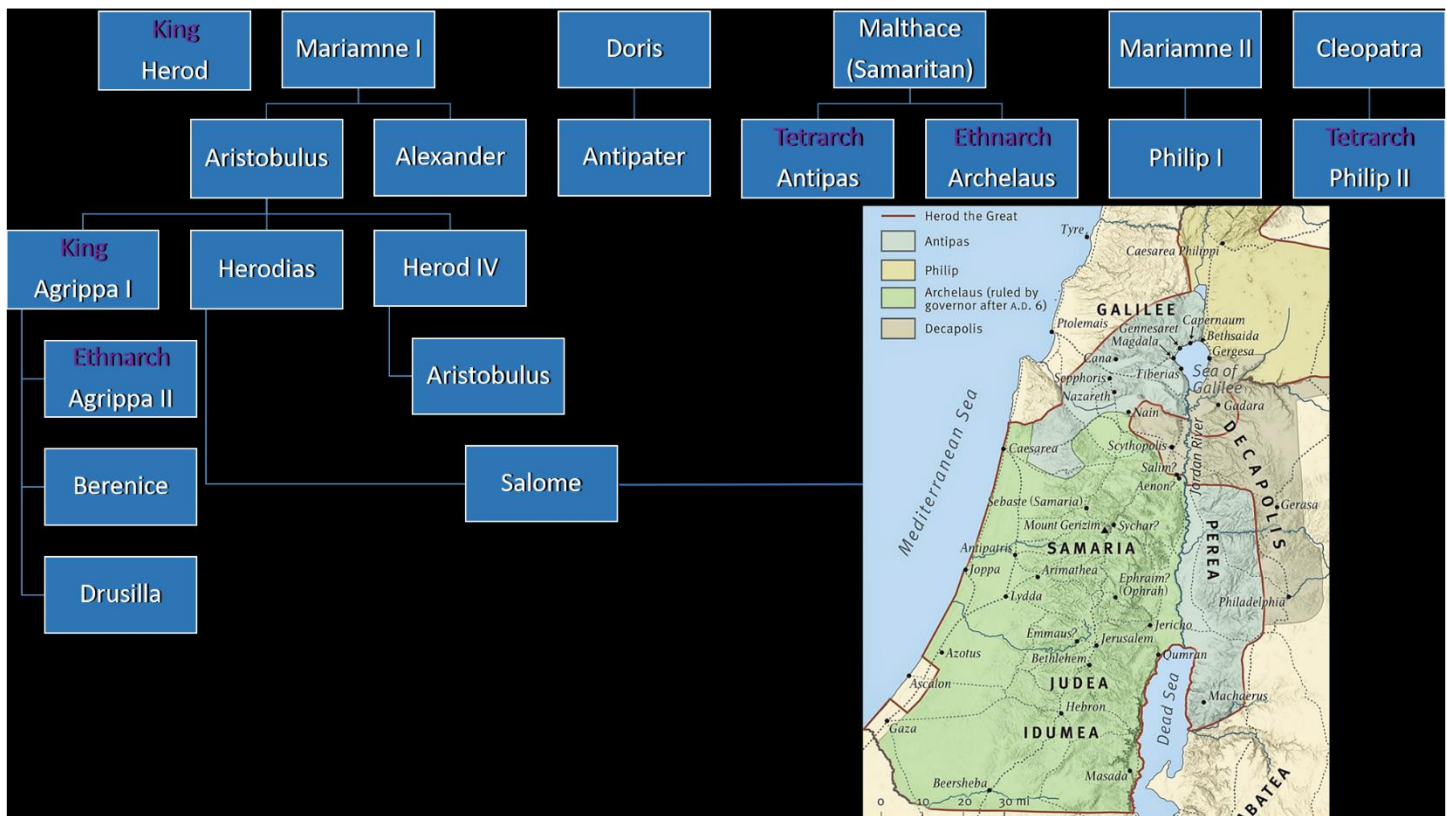
Upon his death in 4 B.C., The best part, roughly two fourths of his kingdom, including Jerusalem, was given to Archelaus as Ethnarch (Ethnarch is below a king, but above a Tetrarch). A fourth, including what is now the Golan Heights, was given to Philip II as Tetrarch. And a fourth, including Galilee and Perea, was given to Antipas as Tetrarch.

John was baptizing in the Jordan river in Antipas' territory of Perea, when he was arrested and brought to the winter palace at Machaerus (mä-kěr-üs). The Summer palace was in Tiberias.



Herodias was the half-niece of her first husband Philip I, sometimes referred to as Herod II, the son of Mariamne II. Their daughter was Salome. Herodias divorced Philip I and married another half-uncle, Herod Antipas. That was the union John condemned based upon Leviticus 20:21.

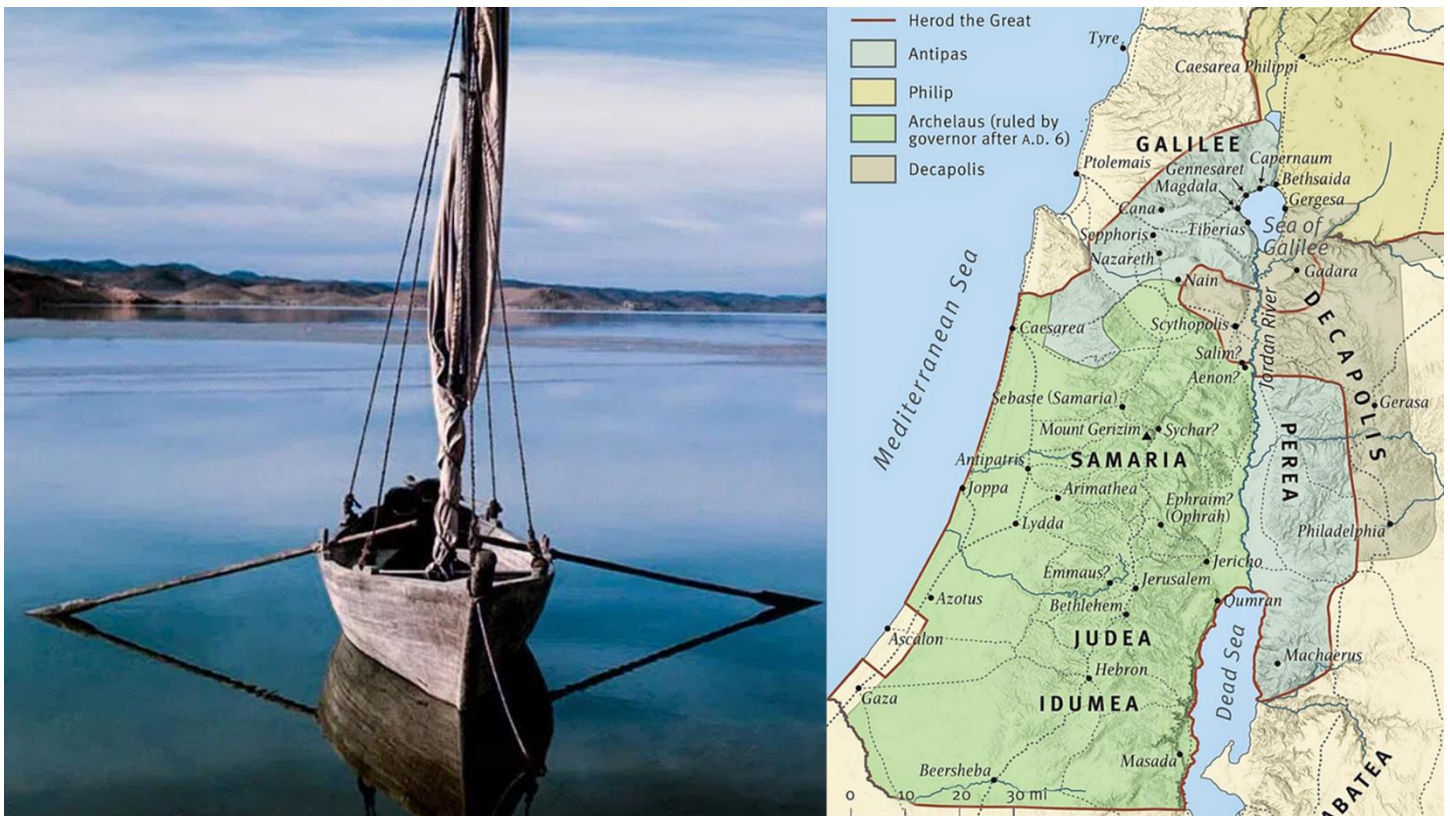
Just to show the weirdness of powerful families trying to keep the power, Salome was married off to her great uncle Philip II the Tetrarch and when he died, she married her cousin, by Herod IV, another guy named Aristobulus, after his executed grandfather.



So, in 4 B.C. Archelaus ruled the green, his full brother Antipas ruled the bluish-gray, and their half-brother Philip II ruled the tan. Ten years later, Archelaus was fired for incompetence and a Roman governor was put in place, ruling from Caesarea from 6 A.D. until 41 A.D., when King Herod Agrippa I was given control of all the territories of his grandfather, Herod the Great. After only 3 years though, Agrippa died a grisly death reported in Acts chapter 12, and the area of Judea, Idumea and Samaria was once again given to Roman governors including Felix who was married to Drusilla, daughter of Agrippa I and sister of Agrippa II and Berenice, all of whom the Apostle Paul preached the Gospel to, in Acts 24-26.



We could spend some more time on the demise of John, but it misses the point. Matthew tells the story the way he did, in a very abbreviated form, because his interest is on Jesus and how all this impacts His life and ministry.



Matthew 14:13a ~ 13aNASB Now when Jesus heard about John, He withdrew from there in a boat to a secluded place by Himself.

The execution of John, and Antipas' fear that Jesus is John reincarnated, cause Jesus to leave Antipas' territory. At some point Jesus travelled back to

Capernaum and then boarded a boat and sailed across the Sea of Galilee to Gaulanitis and the territory belonging to Philip II, or to the Decapolis, where no relative of Herod ruled.

The Decapolis was an autonomous area of approximately ten very Hellenistic cities, hence the name. The cities were established by different groups of military veterans after their service to Alexander the Great and his successors was complete. The allotment of land and self-government was their retirement.

Both the territory of the Decapolis and that of Philip II, not to mention the light brown territory of the Roman Governor of Syria, were very Hellenistic, very secular, very pagan. Very little Jewish influence existed in those areas at that time.

Jesus succeeded in getting away from Antipas and his crazed ideas, but didn't get the solitude that He was probably looking for to grieve for John...



Matthew 14:13b&14 ~ 13bNASB and when the people heard of this (*that Jesus sailed to the other side of the lake*), they followed Him on foot from the cities.

14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

Jesus felt compassion. Please remember that these were people like any other people. Some were good and generous, some were not. Some were pious and humble, some were not. Some were seeking Jesus, but most were seeking what Jesus could do for them.

Nothing has changed. How many people then, or today, wholeheartedly follow Jesus, just because He is

Jesus, rather than because they want something from Him. If you knew for sure that you were going to spend eternity in the Lake of Fire and that your life until then would be fraught with pain and trouble... Would you still serve Jesus?

In spite of the fact that we don't deserve the compassion of God, He nevertheless is moved by His character to grant it. Jesus, tired, worn down, rejected by His hometown and His family, grieving for John, in danger from the authorities and the religious leaders, misunderstood by all... "Felt compassion for them and healed their sick."





Matthew 14:15-21 ~ 15NASB When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, “This place is desolate and the hour is already late; so send the crowds away, that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 But Jesus said to them, “They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat!” 17 They said to Him, “We have here only five loaves and two fish.” 18 And He said, “Bring them here to Me.” 19 Ordering the people to sit down on the grass, He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food, and breaking the loaves He gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds, 20 and they all ate and were satisfied. They picked up what was left over of the

broken pieces, twelve full baskets. 21 There were about five thousand men who ate, besides women and children.

Just a few quick details... The episode is straightforward. Jesus is ministering to the needs of the people, the people don't want to miss anything and are reluctant to leave, but it's getting late.

The Disciples, ever looking through human eyes, do Jesus a favor by pointing out to Him the obvious. What I like about the guys is they have a solution... Tell the people it's quitting time.

Jesus has an alternative solution. He says you feed the people. It has an exclamation point, because it is a command. Jesus ordered them to feed the people.

Again, thinking only as humans they object that they don't have enough or as Mark and John add - it will cost too much money. Basically, the Disciples don't know how to obey the command.

"Five loaves and two fish," probably indicates, five quite small barely loaves of bread, and two salted fish. Not a lot of food – that's the point. People love to take these

numbers and the other numbers in the story, like the 5,000 men and the 12 baskets of leftovers and allegorically assign them some mysterious deeper meaning.

There is no indication that we are to do that and there is no guidance if we choose to do that. We can say that 5 stands for the 5 books of the Law, 2 is for the Old and New Covenants, 12 is for the 12 Tribes of Israel... Or is it the 12 Apostles? Anyone can come up with reasonable, but different and even, contradictory assignments.

I'm not going to go there. Jesus took the food they had, and He looked to God, gave thanks blessing the food, He broke the bread and gave it to His Disciples who, in turn, gave it to the people.



The similarity to Communion is obvious, but it's obvious partly because we took things from here and added it to Communion and partly because we overlook what doesn't fit. I've never had Communion where we substituted dried, salted fish for wine... I mean we substitute grape juice, but never petrified fish.

Again, when we make the passage about more than it's about, we actually miss the true importance. Why 12 baskets full of leftovers? To dispel any idea that the people had small appetites or that the food expanded in their stomachs. This was real. A small amount of food was supernaturally turned into an overabundance.





So, it is another miracle – it’s cool, okay... But what’s the point? The Bible talks about “Signs and wonders” going all the way back to Moses and the Exodus. In Hebrew, it is **אֵימֹת** (ōt), and **מוֹפְתִים** (mō-fāt). God hardened Pharaoh’s heart specifically to “Multiply His signs and His wonders” (Exodus 7:3). It was to create a substantial testimony that people would not forget, diminish or dismiss.

“Signs and wonders,” is a Biblical phrase that is a near hendiadys. Hendiadys is where two words joined by “and” function as one word. It could easily be translated as a “Wonderous sign,” or a “Divine wonder.” The wonder part stresses the supernatural aspect of God’s

work, while the sign part stresses the purpose of the miracle wrought by God. God is not a magician, He is not in the business of doing miracles, simply to do miracles... He's never trying to entertain, or impress, nor is He ever trying to cheat the system, to get His way.

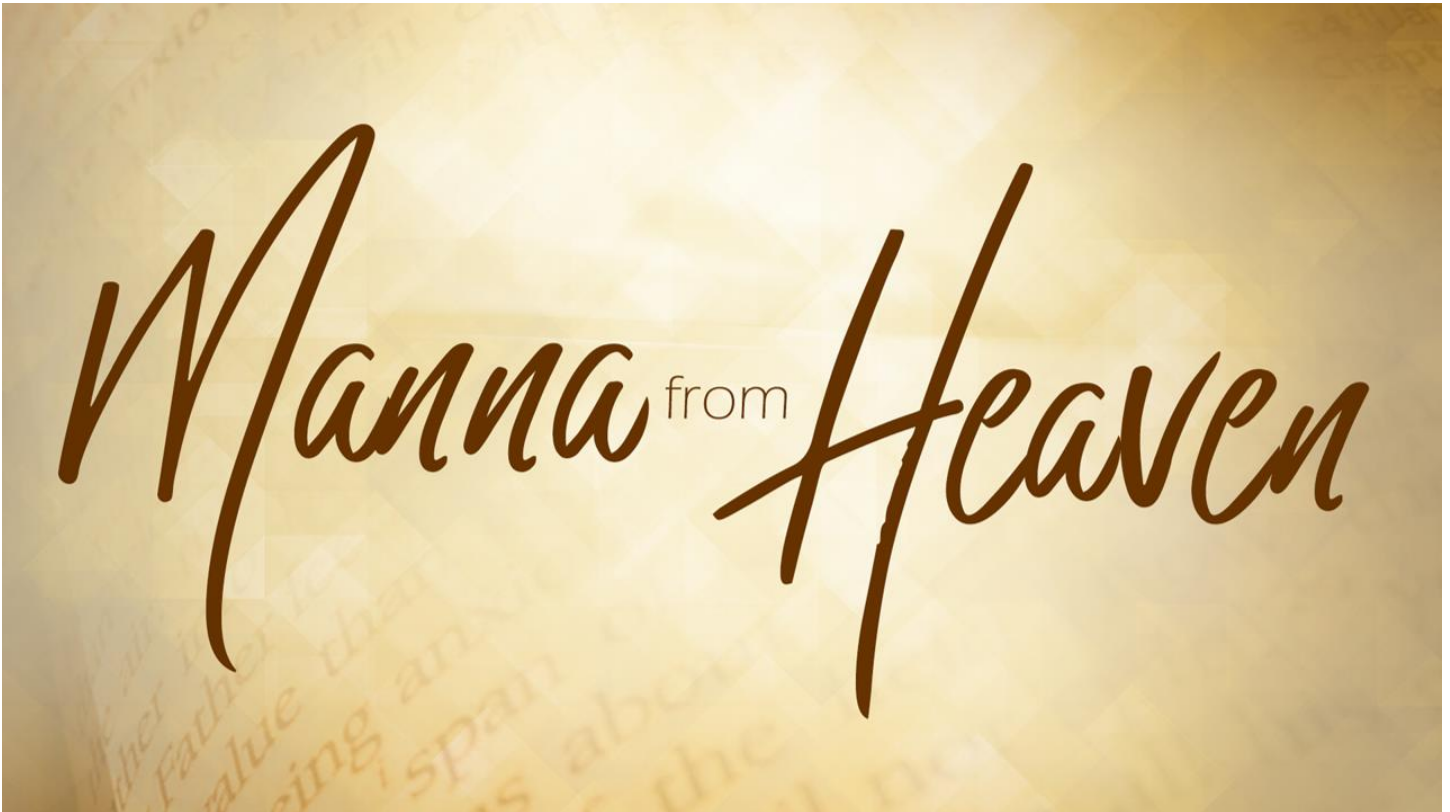
What I mean, is that God never needs to intervene supernaturally in order to fix the timeline. It isn't like He has a plan and others keep derailing the plan and He must then perform a miracle to get things back on track.

When God supernaturally intervenes in the natural realm, He does so for a purpose and so any wondrous miracle is simultaneously a sign. What is the purpose? Always self-revelation and that's the point. Through the "Sign and wonder," God intends to connect with us.

This "Feeding of people," is a "Sign and wonder."

Back in Matthew chapter 4, Jesus was alone in the wilderness and hadn't eaten anything for 40 days and 40 nights. The Bible says that, He was hungry. Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread and satisfy His

very real and reasonable human need. Matthew 4:4, 4NIV Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”



Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 8:3. There God is reminding His Children that He was the One Who led them in the wilderness for 40 years. He said He used it, “To humble and test them in order to know what was in their heart, whether or not they would keep his commands.” That was God’s purpose. Later on, in verse 5, God tells them that a father “Disciplines his son.” The implication is because he loves his son and wants him to grow up well.



The specific point is that God humbled the people by causing them to be hungry and then supplying that need with manna. It was to teach reliance upon God as the ever-faithful Provider... It was to build Trust in God. Trust is demonstrated by obedience to His commands.

Trust in God, not in bread. Trust in God, not in money. That's why our money actually reminds us that it is "In God we trust." Trust in God, not in your own resources or the illusion that you can control things. Trust in God by obeying His commands.

It is to correctly prioritize life based upon the Truth that God is the One Who provides all. It was seen in John chapter 4. Jesus ministered to the Samaritan woman at the well while His guys went and bought some bread. When they got back, they were shocked to see Him talking to her, but encouraged Jesus to eat, to which He replied in verse 34, 34aNIV "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me."

So again, trust God through the experience of His faithfulness in the midst of the test.

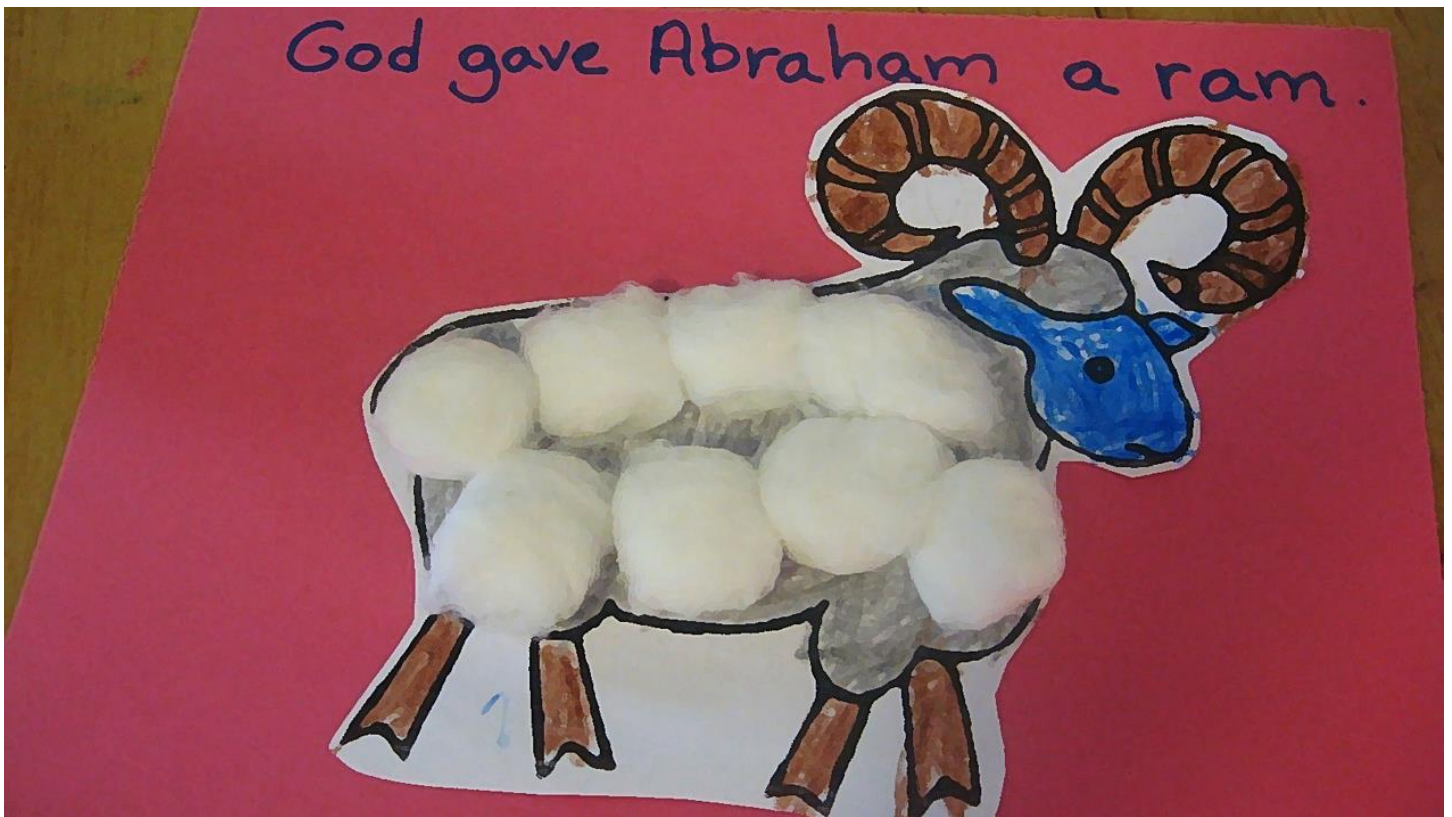


That's what the Deuteronomy passage Jesus quoted was about. Moses explained to the people in Deuteronomy 8:3, that Almighty God, their Merciful Lord, Deuteronomy 8:3NIV "Humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." That was the message Jesus rebuked Satan with. Genesis 22:8NIV "God Himself will provide."



That's what Abraham told his son Isaac when he asked about the "Sacrificial Lamb." Isaac said, I see the fire and I see the wood, I know you have the knife...

Where's the lamb? Abraham told his son in Genesis 22:8, 8NIV "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Was Abraham, right? What did God provide that day? Was it a lamb to die in the place of man? No. It was a mature ram caught by its horns.



Abraham saw that physical ram, but spiritually he saw something far greater. In John 8:56, Jesus told those calling Him a demon-possessed Samaritan, 56NIV "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." Abraham sacrificed the ram that God provided to save Isaac's life, but he knew that God would eventually provide His Own Son as a Sacrificial Lamb to save the life of all.

Jesus, the Lamb that God provided, “The Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29, 1:36, Revelation 5:6, 7:17, 22:3).



Those naysayers responded to Jesus in verse 57, 57NIV “You are not yet fifty years old,” they said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!” 58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” (“Before Father Abraham came to be, I already existed.”) People often try to diminish the “I AM” statements, saying Jesus never claimed to be God. This grammatical structure cannot be taken any other way. God told Moses that His name was “I AM”. It is



pure immutable being, without beginning, without end, the same yesterday, today and tomorrow... Raw, eternal, existence, rather than temporary, ever-changing, created matter. Jesus claiming to be Emmanuel, God with us, certainly was not lost on the crowd... The very next verse...). 59At this, they picked up stones to stone him.



Very few events appear in all four Gospels – the “Feeding of the Five Thousand,” is one of those few. It means that it is very important. In addition to the four telling’s of this one event, Matthew and Mark also report a similar “Feeding of Four Thousand.” In John’s account, we get a better glimpse of the “Sign and



wonder,” aspect, or as I said the Self-Revelation of God through His supernatural intrusion into the natural realm.

In John’s account, the vast crowd started searching for Jesus the next day when they realized He’d gone. When they found Him again, Jesus bluntly told them that the only reason they had searched Him out was because they wanted another free lunch. Jesus told them in John 6:27 27NIV Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.

Naturally, they asked what work would that be? Jesus said, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” They then asked what sign He would provide and brought up the notion that Moses had given their ancestors manna as an example of an appropriate sign.

Starting in verse 32... 32NIV Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 “Sir,” they said, “always give us this

bread.” 35 Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Jesus continued for some time trying to explain that He was the Manna sent by the Father to give people eternal life... They could not get past their human opinion-driven expectations and we finally come to John 6:66, 66NIV From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

Jesus corrected them by saying it was God and not Moses who provided and that His ultimate expression of providing His Heavenly Manna was in the form of the Bread of Life – Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus “The Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.”

# THE LIVING WORD OF GOD

Why? Because “We don’t live on bread alone, but on every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” Jesus is that “Word of God.” The Word that is coherent, the Word that reveals.

The Gospel opens 1ScottBefore anything had been created, before physical space, or matter, before time itself, there was already the Revelation, and the Revelation was in full community together with God, and the Revelation was God. 2He was with God in the beginning. 3Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4In him was the life force, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5The light shines in the darkness of self, and

the darkness has not understood, accepted, or overcome it. Verse 14 The Word, the Message of God, the Revelation, became flesh and lived among us as one of us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. Chapter 3, verse 13 No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. 14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. Verse 19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

My friends, feeding the vast crowds by supernatural means was a Wonderous sign that the true Manna was among them – that’s what God was trying to tell them through His miracle – that was the purpose of His



intervening in the affairs of man – that was the point of the Divine Wonder.

That is the point of the Lord's Prayer. The "Give us this day our daily bread" stanza, is our prayer that the Father give us the true Manna each and every day – our allotment of Jesus in order to get through the day as Christian disciples carrying our cross.



Our Father

Who art in heaven

Hallowed be Thy name

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done

On earth as it is in heaven

**Give us this day our daily bread**

And forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil

For Thine is the Kingdom

and the power... and the glory... forever and ever... Amen

