

Mark Dispensationally Considered

**Mark 6:14-31: The Death of John the
Baptist**

Mark 6:14-29

- Mark 6:14—when king Herod heard of Christ, he thought Christ was John the Baptist risen from the dead. This is how Herod explained the mighty works Christ was performing.
- Matthew 14:1 (1018)—this Herod was one of the sons of Herod the Great who had ordered the slaughter of all the baby boys in Israel two years and younger after learning of the birth Christ (Matthew 2:16-17). The Herod in this account is titled, the Tetrarch, or “ruler of a fourth part.” On the death of Herod the Great his lands were divided into four parts: Archelaus obtained two parts, Philip on part, and Antipas (the Herod of this story) one part.

Mark 6:14-29

- Mark 6:15-16—when others heard of Christ some thought he was Elijah (Elias), while others viewed him as a prophet or perhaps one of the Old Testament prophets raised from the dead. Herod, however, is convinced that Jesus is a resurrected John the Baptist.
 - John 1:15-21 (1115)—why did the leaders of Israel ask John if he was Elijah?
 - Malachi 4:5 (984)—because Elijah will come again before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
 - Matthew 11:2-14 (1010)—according to Jesus if Israel had received the kingdom that John would have been the fulfillment of Malachi 4:5.

Mark 6:14-29

- Mark 6:17-18—Herod had John arrested for the sake of his wife Herodias. Herod's original wife was a daughter Aretas, King of Arabia, whom he dishonored by taking Herodias, the wife of Philip his brother. John had condemned Herod for his immorality which resulted in John incarceration at the hands of Herod.
 - Matthew 14:3-4 (1018)
- Mark 6:19-20—Herodias wanted to have John killed immediately but lacked the power and authority to do so. Meanwhile, Herod feared John because he was a just and holy man consequently would not kill him.

Mark 6:14-29

- The fact that Herod observed him and heard him gladly in verse 20 speaks to the fact that John was in prison for quite some time before being executed.
- Matthew 14:5—the combined testimony of Matthew and Mark reveal that Herod feared John for two reasons: 1) a superstitious fear that as prophet John might be able to put some type of curse upon him, 2) a fear of the people because they considered John a prophet.

Mark 6:14-29

- Mark 6:21—the expression “and when a convenient day was come,” implies that the following chain of events were planned in advance by Herod wife and her daughter. In other words, Herod’s birthday was the day they had targeted to hatch their plan.
- Mark 6:22-23—after being pleased by her dancing Herod tells her that he will give her whatever she desires up to half of his kingdom. The expression in verse 23, “And he sware unto her,” is Herod swearing in an oath as to the legitimacy of his offer.
 - Matthew 14:7

Mark 6:14-29

- Mark 6:24-25—tells that she sought the council of her mother he instructed her to ask for the head of John the Baptist.
 - Matthew 14:8—tells us that her mother had previously instructed her about what to ask for if their little plan worked.
- Mark 6:26—while Herod was upset by the request for the sake of his oath and the need to save face in front of his friends Herod would not refuse her request.
 - Matthew 14:9

Mark 6:14-29

- Mark 6:27-28—Herod immediately has John executed. The executioner delivers John's head in a charger to the daughter of Herodias who then gives it to her mother.
- Mark 6:29—when the disciples of John heard about his death they came and buried his corpse in a tomb.
 - Matthew 14:12-13—states that followers of John also went and told Jesus about what had happened. The indication from verse 13 is that upon learning of John's death, Jesus went into the desert alone for a time to mourn John's passing.
- Luke 9:7-9 (1085)—offers a brief summary of the details presented in Matthew and Mark regarding the details of John's death.

Mark 6:30-31

- Mark 6:30—we saw in Mark 6:7-13 that Jesus sent the 12 forth two by two to preach. Based on this chronology it would appear that the Lord is alone when he learned about the death of John and was removed to the desert to grieve John's passing.
- Upon their return they give Christ a report of all the things they had done and taught.