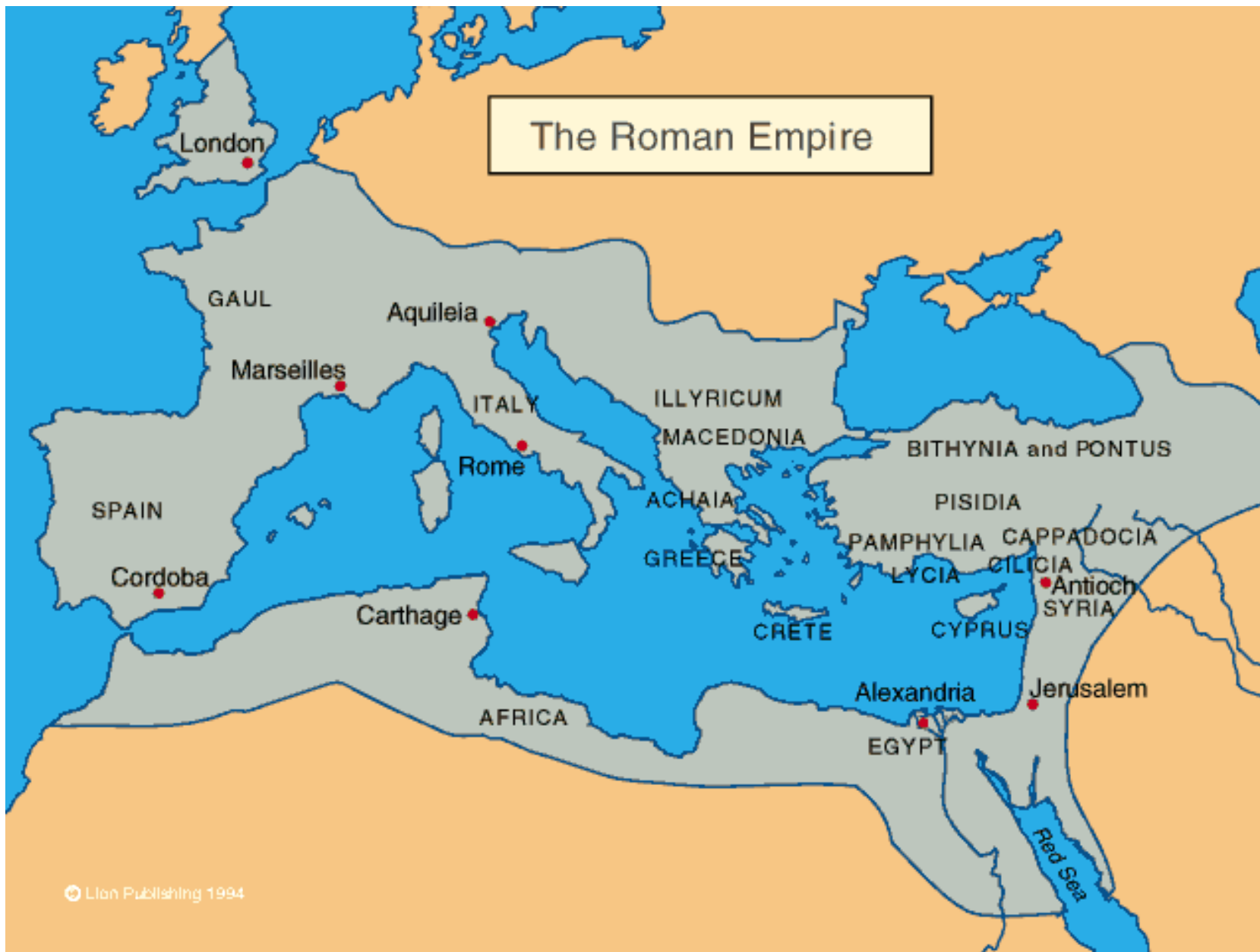


# The Roman Empire



# THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 23: THE HERODIAN DYNASTY . . . *HISTORY*

**MEMORY.** Memorize the “Herods” who are mentioned in the NT: Herod the Great, Archelaus, Antipas, Philip, Agrippa I, and Agrippa II. (Optional: You can memorize something significant about each of these Herods; Herod the Great tried to kill Jesus, Archelaus frightened Joseph, Antipas killed John the Baptist, Philip became tetrarch of the territory north and east of Galilee, Agrippa I was eaten by worms, and Agrippa II tried Paul in Caesarea.)

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## DISCUSSION.

1. *Rome.* Why is the end of Edom significant? (Isa 62:10-63:6; Ezek 36:1-12; Joel 3:18-21; Mal 1:1-5)

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## DISCUSSION.

2. *Herod.* How does an understanding of the Herodian loyalty to Rome enliven the story of the testing of Jesus by the Pharisees and the Herodians? (Mark 12:13-17 // Matt 22:15-22)

How did Herod respond to news of the Christ? (Matt 2:16)

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## DISCUSSION.

3. *Prophecy.* Though we cannot be certain that these scriptures refer specifically to Herod or the Herodian dynasty, what phrases in these prophecies suggest a reference to Herod? (Gen 49:10; Num 24:18)

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## DISCUSSION.

4. *Jesus.* Where had Joseph and Mary taken Jesus to escape from Herod, and when they returned to Judea, where did they decide to live instead? (Matt 2:13-23) Why?

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**CONNECTION.** Matthew describes the event commonly referred to as “the slaughter of the innocents” (Matt 2:16–18). It quotes Jer 31:15. Consider the context of Jer 31:15. In what way(s) does the activity of Herod fulfill the prophecy of Jeremiah?

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**APPLICATION.** Herod accomplished amazing feats in his time as king of Israel. He granted the Jews religious liberty, strengthened the infrastructure, constructed and developed cities, and even renovated and expanded the temple. Yet, we rarely, if ever, think first about the good that Herod did. His moral failures define him. Let us measure our success not by our secular achievements but by our spiritual victories.



