

was returned again, his wife having discovered the agreement he had made with Herodias, and having learned it before he had notice of her knowledge of the whole design, she desired him to send her to Macherus, which is a place in the borders of the dominions of Aretas and Herod, without informing him of any of her intentions. Accordingly Herod sent her thither, as thinking his wife had not perceived any thing; now she had sent a good while before to Macherus, which was subject to her father, and so all things necessary for her journey were made ready for her by the general of Aretas's army; and by that means she soon came into Arabia, under the conduct of the several generals, who carried her from one to another successively; and she soon came to her father, and told him of Herod's intentions. So Aretas made this the first occasion of his enmity between him and Herod, who had also some quarrel with him about their limits at the country of Gamalitis. So they raised armies on both sides, and prepared for war, and sent their generals to fight instead of themselves; and when they had joined battle, all Herod's army was destroyed by the treachery of some fugitives, who, though they were of the tetrarchy of Philip, joined with Aretas's army. So Herod wrote about these affairs to Tiberius, who being very angry at the attempt made by Aretas, wrote to Vitellius to make war upon him, and either to take him alive, and bring him to him in bonds, or to kill him, and send him his head. This was the charge that Tiberius gave to the president of Syria.

2. Now some of the Jews thought that the destruction of Herod's army came from God, and that very justly, as a punishment of what he did against John, that was called the *Baptist*; for Herod slew him, who was a good man, and commanded the Jews to exercise virtue, both as to righteousness towards one another, and piety towards God, and so to come to baptism; for that the washing [with water] would be acceptable to him, if they made use of it, not in order to the putting away [or the remission] of some sins [only], but for the purification of the body; supposing still that the soul was thoroughly purified beforehand by righteousness. Now when [many] others came in crowds about him, for they were very greatly moved [or pleased] by hearing his words, Herod, who feared lest the great influence John had over the people might put it into his power and inclination to raise a rebellion, (for they seemed ready to do any thing he should advise,) thought it best, by putting him to death, to prevent any mischief he might cause, and not bring himself into difficulties, by sparing a man who might make him repent of it when it should be too late. Accord-

ingly he was sent a prisoner, out of Herod's suspicious temper, to Macherus, the castle before mentioned, and was there put to death. Herod's Jews had an opinion that the destruction of his army was sent as a punishment upon Herod, as a mark of God's displeasure to him.

3. So Vitellius prepared to make war upon Aretas, having with him two legions of armed men; he also took with him all those of light arms, and of the horsemen which belonged to them, and drawn out of those kingdoms which were subject to Romans, and made haste for Petra, and thence to Ptolemais. But as he was marching westward, and leading his army through Judea, the Samaritan men met him, and desired that he would not march through their land; for that the barrenness of the country would not permit them to overcome the images which were brought into it, of which there were a great many in their ensigns; and they were persuaded by what they said, and changed the direction of his which he had before taken in the desert. Whereupon he ordered the army to march through the great plain, while he himself, with Herod's tetrarch and his friends, went up to Jerusalem, to offer sacrifice to God, an ancient festival of the Jews being then just approaching; and as he had been there, and been honourably entertained by the multitude of the Jews, he made a stay there three days, within which time he deprived Herod of the high priesthood, and gave it to Herod's brother Theophilus. But when on the fourth day he came to him, which informed him of the death of Tiberius, he obliged the multitude to take an oath of fidelity to Caius; he also recalled his army, and made them every one go home, and take their winter quarters there, since, upon the destruction of the empire upon Caius, he had not the leisure to make this war which he had before. It was reported, that when Aretas heard of the coming of Vitellius to fight him, he said, upon his consulting the diviners, that it was impossible that the army of Vitellius's could enter Petra; for that either the rulers would die, either he that gave order to the war, or he that was marching at the other end, in order to be subservient to his will, or he that was against whom this army is prepared. So Herod truly retired to Antioch; but Agrippa, the son of Aristobulus, went up to Rome, a year before the death of Tiberius, in order to treat of peace with the emperor, if he might be permitted to do so. I have now a mind to describe Herod's family, how it fared with them, partly because it is suitable to this history to speak of that matter, and partly because this thing is a demonstration of the interposition of Providence, how a multitude of

of no advantage, no more than any other that mankind set their hearts upon, besides acts of piety which are done towards God; it happened, that, within the revolution of a few years, the posterity of Herod, which were in number, were, excepting a few, destroyed.\* One may well apply this for the instruction of mankind, and learn thence how unprofitable they were: it will also show us the history of Herod, who, as he was a person most worthy of our notice, so was he from a private man, beyond the expectation of those that knew him, and rose to great power and authority. I have said nothing of them formerly, but I shall now say more accurately about them.

Herod the Great had two daughters by his first wife, the [grand] daughter of Hyrcanus; the one was Salampsio, who was married to Phasaelus, a Samaritan, who was himself the son of Phasaelus, Herod's brother, her father making the match; the other was Cypros, who was herself married also to her first cousin Antipater, the son of Salome, Herod's mother. Phasaelus had five children by Salampsio, Antipater, Herod, and Alexander, and two daughters, Alexandra and Cypros; which last was married to the son of Aristobulus, married; and Tiberius Alexander married Alexandra; he was a man of great power, but had by her no children. Agrippa had by his first wife two sons and three daughters, which were named Bernice, Mariamne, and Drusus; the names of the sons were Agrippa and Drusus, of which Drusus died before he came to the age of puberty; but their father, Agrippa, was contented with his other brethren, Herod and Alexander, for these were also the sons of the son of Herod the Great by Bernice; but Bernice was married to Costobarus and of Salome, who was Herod's sister. Aristobulus left these infants to be slain by his father, together with his brother Alexander, as we have already related. But Tiberius Alexander was arrived at years of puberty, this was the brother of Agrippa, married Mariamne, the daughter of Olympias, who was the daughter of Antipater the king, and of Joseph, the son of Josephus, who was brother to Herod the king, and had by Olympias Aristobulus; but Aristobulus, the third son of Agrippa, married Jotape, the daughter of Aretas, king of Emesa; † they had a son, who was deaf, whose name also was Jo-

tape; and these hitherto were the children of the male line. But Herodias, their sister, was married to Herod [Philip], the son of Herod the Great, who was born of Mariamne, the daughter of Simon the high priest, who had a daughter, Salome; after whose birth Herodias took upon her to confound the laws of our country, and divorced herself from her husband while he was alive, and was married to Herod [Antipas], her husband's brother by the father's side; he was tetrarch of Galilee; but her daughter Salome was married to Philip, the son of Herod, and tetrarch of Trachonitis; and as he died childless, Aristobulus, the son of Herod, the brother of Agrippa, married her; they had three sons, Herod, Agrippa, and Aristobulus; and this was the posterity of Phasaelus and Salampsio. But the daughter of Antipater by Cypros was Cypros, whom Alexas Selcias, the son of Alexas, married; they had a daughter, Cypros; but Herod and Alexander, who, as we told you, were the brothers of Antipater, died childless. As to Alexander, the son of Herod the king, who was slain by his father, he had two sons, Alexander and Tigranes, by the daughter of Archelaus, king of Cappadocia. Tigranes, who was king of Armenia, was accused at Rome, and died childless; Alexander had a son of the same name with his brother Tigranes, and was sent to take possession of the kingdom of Armenia by Nero; he had a son, Alexander, who married Jotape, ‡ the daughter of Antiochus, the king of Commagena; Vespasian made him king of an island in Cilicia. But these descendants of Alexander, soon after their birth, deserted the Jewish religion, and went over to that of the Greeks. But for the rest of the daughters of Herod the king, it happened that they died childless. And as these descendants of Herod, whom we have enumerated, were in being at the same time that Agrippa the Great took the kingdom, and I have now given an account of them, it now remains that I relate the several hard fortunes which befell Agrippa, and how he got clear of them, and was advanced to the greatest height of dignity and power.

be considered. See Lev. xviii. 6, 7; xxi. 10; and Noldius, De Herod, No. 269, 270.

† There are coins still extant of this Emesa, as Spanheim informs us.

‡ Spanheim also informs us of a coin still extant of this Jotape, daughter of the king of Commagena.