

Luke 23:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

Analysis

He sent him to Herod—Pilate's transfer of Jesus to Herod Antipas is unique to Luke's Gospel, demonstrating Luke's careful historical research (1:3). The phrase **belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction** (ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας Ἡρώδου, ek tēs exousias Hērōdou) uses exousia, meaning 'authority' or 'domain'—the same word Jesus used for his own authority to lay down his life (John 10:18). The irony is stark: earthly powers debate jurisdiction over the One who possesses all authority (Matthew 28:18).

Herod's presence in Jerusalem **at that time** was providential—both rulers would unite in examining Christ, fulfilling Psalm 2:1-2: 'The kings of the earth set themselves...against the LORD, and against his anointed.' What Pilate intended as political expedience became divine orchestration, gathering all earthly powers to witness their Creator's voluntary submission to death. Luke alone records this detail, emphasizing how Gentile and Jewish authorities together condemned the innocent Christ.

Historical Context

Herod Antipas (son of Herod the Great) ruled Galilee and Perea from 4 BC to AD 39. His presence in Jerusalem during Passover was customary—the tetrarch would attend major Jewish festivals both for religious observance and political vigilance

during periods of potential unrest. His palace in Jerusalem served as his residence during these visits, making him readily accessible to Pilate.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the collaboration of Pilate and Herod fulfill Psalm 2's prophecy about earthly powers conspiring against God's Anointed?
2. What does Jesus's silence before earthly 'authorities' teach us about the true nature of power and submission?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐπιγνοὺς ὅτι ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας Ἡρώδην
And as soon as he knew that unto jurisdiction Herod
G2532 G1921 G3754 G1537 G3588 G1849 G2264

ἐστὶν ἀνέπεμψεν αὐτὸν πρὸς Ἡρώδην ὅντα καὶ
he belonged he sent him to Herod was And
G2076 G375 G846 G4314 G2264 G5607 G2532

αὐτὸν ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις ἐν ταύταις ταῖς ἡμέραις
him at Jerusalem at G3778 G3588 time
G846 G1722 G2414 G1722 G2250

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:1 (Parallel theme): Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

Luke 13:31 (Parallel theme): The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee.

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