

Luke 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead;

Analysis

Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him—The fame of Jesus and His apostles reached the ears of political power. Ἡρόδης ho tetraarchēs (Ἡρώδης ὁ τετραάρχης) was Herod Antipas, son of Herod the Great, ruler of Galilee and Perea (4 BC-AD 39). The title tetraarchēs ("ruler of a fourth") indicated subordinate authority under Rome.

And he was perplexed (διηπόρει, diēporei)—the verb indicates complete bewilderment, thorough confusion. Herod was tormented by uncertainty. **Because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead**—guilty conscience magnified the rumors. Herod had murdered John the Baptist (Luke 3:19-20, Mark 6:17-29), and now supernatural reports about Jesus awakened fear that John had returned from the grave to exact divine judgment. The speculation reveals both Herod's superstition and the people's recognition that extraordinary power was at work—power that demanded supernatural explanation.

Historical Context

Herod Antipas ruled Galilee from his capital Tiberias. He had John the Baptist executed (circa AD 28-29) after John rebuked his unlawful marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife (Leviticus 18:16, 20:21). Josephus records that Herod feared John's influence over the people might lead to insurrection. Now Jesus's ministry, amplified by the Twelve's preaching throughout Galilee, created even

greater public attention. Herod's perplexity shows the political elite's inability to categorize Jesus—prophet, revolutionary, or revenant?

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Herod's guilty conscience illustrate the truth that sin creates fear and confusion even in the powerful?
2. What does the speculation that John had risen reveal about first-century Jewish beliefs in resurrection and the afterlife?
3. In what ways do political authorities today respond with perplexity or hostility when confronted with genuine gospel power?

Interlinear Text

"Ηκουσεν δὲ Ἡρώδης ὁ τετράρχης τὰ γινόμενα ὑπό¹
heard Now Herod the tetrarch that was done by
G191 G1161 G2264 G3588 G5076 G3588 G1096 G5259

αὐτοῦ πάντα καὶ διηπόρει διὰ τὸ λέγεσθαι ὑπό²
him of all and he was perplexed because that it was said by
G846 G3956 G2532 G1280 G1223 G3588 G3004 G5259

τινων ὅτι Ἰωάννης ἐγήγερται ἐκ νεκρῶν
some that John was risen from the dead

G5100 G3754 G2491 G1453 G1537 G3498

