

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. Hērōdēs 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

ἤκουσεν	δὲ	Ἡρώδης	ὁ	τετράρχης	τὰ	γινόμενα	ὑπό
heard	Now	Herod	G3588	the tetrarch	G3588	that was done	by
G191	G1161	G2264		G5076		G1096	G5259
αὐτοῦ	πάντα	καὶ	διηπόρει	διὰ	τὸ	λέγεσθαι	ὑπό
him	of all	and	he was perplexed	because	G3588	that it was said	by
G846	G3956	G2532	G1280	G1223		G3004	G5259
τινῶν	ὅτι	Ἰωάννης	ἐγήγερται	ἐκ	νεκρῶν		
some	that	John	was risen	from	the dead		
G5100	G3754	G2491	G1453	G1537	G3498		

