

# Matthew 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto his servants, This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.

## Analysis

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Herod's superstitious conclusion: 'This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him' (οὗτος ἐστὶν Ἰωάννης ὁ βαπτιστὴς αὐτὸς ἠγερθὴ ἀπὸ τῶν νεκρῶν καὶ διὰ τοῦτο αἱ δυνάμεις ἐνεργοῦσιν ἐν αὐτῷ). Herod's guilt produces irrational fear: Jesus is John resurrected. 'Mighty works' (δυνάμεις, miracles/powers) indicate Jesus' supernatural activities. Herod attributes them to John's resurrection empowerment. This reveals guilt's power: Herod knows he murdered an innocent man; conscience haunts him. Yet his superstition is theologically confused—why would resurrection produce miracle-working power? Guilt makes him irrational. This foreshadows Jesus' actual resurrection, which did produce miracle-working power through His followers. Herod's false resurrection fear ironically previews true resurrection reality.

## Historical Context

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Herod's fear reflects widespread ancient belief that murdered prophets might return for vengeance. Superstition often mingles with political power. Unlike later resurrection hope, Herod imagines vengeful haunting rather than glorified restoration. John himself worked no miracles (John 10:41); Herod incorrectly assumes resurrection grants new powers. Jesus' actual resurrection vindicated Him as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36), empowering disciples through the Spirit (Acts 1:8). Early church preached resurrection despite persecution, confident in what

Herod's superstition unknowingly anticipated: death doesn't end God's servants but leads to glorification.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does Herod's guilty conscience teach about the power of suppressed moral knowledge?
2. How does Herod's false resurrection fear ironically point toward true resurrection hope?
3. What is the difference between superstitious fear and genuine faith in God's justice?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	εἶπεν	τοῖς	παισὶν	αὐτῷ	Οὗτός	ἐστιν	Ἰωάννης	ὁ
<b>And</b>	<b>said</b>	G3588	<b>servants</b>	<b>he</b>	<b>This</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>John</b>	G3588
G2532	G2036		G3816	G846	G3778	G2076	G2491	
βαπτιστής·	αὐτῷ	ἠγέρθη	ἀπὸ	τῶν	νεκρῶν	καὶ	διὰ	
<b>the Baptist</b>	<b>he</b>	<b>is risen</b>	<b>from</b>	G3588	<b>the dead</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>therefore</b>	
G910	G846	G1453	G575		G3498	G2532	G1223	
τοῦτο	αἱ	δυνάμεις	ἐνεργοῦσιν	ἐν	αὐτῷ			
G5124	G3588	<b>mighty works</b>	<b>do shew forth themselves</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>he</b>			
		G1411	G1754	G1722	G846			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 16:14** (References John): And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

