



Herod left Jerusalem and went to Jericho the day of the March 11, 4 BC eclipse: he did not return & died there—yet was in Jerusalem when the wise men came (Jos. *Antiq.* 17.6.1-17.9.4; cp. Mat. 2:1-3, 19-20). This fits the Course of Abijah data (Luk. 1:5; 1 Chr. 24:1-10), which indicates Christ was born shortly before c.March 4 (Adar 8, ± 10 days). Joseph & Mary returned from Egypt to present Jesus "to the Lord" at the Temple on the 40th day after His birth: therefore Herod's March 30 death was within 40 days of his edict to slay the male babies (Luk. 2:22; Lev. 12:26). **All dates are Gregorian.**

New Moon

Jos., *Antiq.* 17.6 – 17.8; *Wars* 1.32.1 – 2.1.3  
Some have questioned Josephus' account of Herod's death, but he is said to have consulted Nicolaus of Damascus' works (Herod's close friend and an eyewitness).

Full Moon

Noon Jerusalem: students pull down Herod's golden eagle. 40 are seized, sent 14 miles to Jericho: Elders arrive & zealots slain. Herod's health worsens. **Lunar eclipse** March 11, 4 BC Jos. *Ant.* 17.6.4

Herod's health critical: sends for physicians and goes 25 miles to baths at Callirrhoe

Herod takes warm baths and then soaks in oil

\*A Levite, his concubine, and servant went c.9 mi. with just two burros in only c.3 hours (Judg. 19)

Herod goes back to Jericho

Herod gathers the leaders of Israel to Jericho, locks them in the hippodrome and orders Salome to slay them when he dies so that Israel mourns at his death.

Herod has son Antipater slain and dies 5 days later. Jos. *Ant.* 17.8.1.

Herod's health hopeless: Archeleaus makes plans for the funeral.

Soldiers help Archeleaus give an elaborate funeral for his father: a 22 mile procession from Jericho to Herodium (8 mi so. of Jerusalem). Josephus says nothing in *Antiquitie* or *Wars* about the pace being a military pace of 8 furlongs per hour (1 mile per hour) much less such being kept the entire distance as stated in a \*footnote. He merely says the whole army went as if marching out to war.

Jericho: Herod dies at 70. Salome frees Jews in Hippodrome.

Archeleaus mourns 7 more days for his father after Herod's burial Josephus, *Antiquities*, 17.8.4.

Jews riot at **Passover** over Herod's killing those who pulled down his golden eagle. Archelaus' cavalry and foot soldiers slay 3,000 Jos., *Antiq.* 17.9.3

Fearing Augustus will hear of the riot, Archelaus immediately sails for Rome to have Caesar grant him the throne. Jos. *Antiq.* 17.9.1