I. HEROD’S LIFE.

A. He was born in 72 or 73 B.C.
   1. His father was, Antipater, who was an Edomite and a political rising star. His father converted to Judaism for political reasons.
   2. His mother, Cyprus, was the daughter of an Arab sheik.
   3. Herod was close friends with Octavian who became Caesar Augustus. This friendship landed him the kingship of Israel in 37 B.C.

B. Herod was responsible for several ambitious building programs. (SLIDES).
   1. Masada.
   2. The Cave of the Patriarchs.
   3. Caesarea-Maritima.
   4. The Herodium.
   5. The Temple Mount.

C. Herod’s strengths.
   1. Massive building programs.
   2. Increase of Israel’s world standing by expanding international commerce.
   3. He kept order in Israel by using secret police.
   4. He worked well with the Romans.

D. Herod’s weaknesses.
   1. He was a brutal man who killed anyone he considered a threat including his father-in-law, several of his ten wives and even two of his own children.
   2. He favored the Romans over the Jews.
   3. His heavy taxation to fund his ambitious building projects burdened the people.
E. Herod’s demise.

1. According to Jewish historian, Josephus, he died in 4 B.C. of a painful disease.

2. His kingdom was divided among three sons: Archelaus, Philip, and Herod Antipas who questioned Jesus before his crucifixion.

3. He is only referenced in Matthew 2 and Luke 1:5.

4. His death made it possible for Mary, Joseph and Jesus to return to Israel from Egypt—Matt. 2:19-21.

II. HEROD’S LESSONS.

A. Uncontrolled ambition can turn a person into a monster.

B. Jealousy clouds good judgement.

C. Great accomplishments are no substitute for knowing Jesus—Matt 16:26.