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STUDENT HANDOUT

GREEN LEVEL
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Who Ruled Judaea?

Grades 5–8 • Social Studies

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ADMIT ONE

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLASS _____

In Jesus' lifetime, no single person ruled Judaea. An emperor in Rome, kings from Herod's family and Roman governors all held power there — and each of them made coins. Two thousand years later, those coins are evidence you can hold of who was in charge.

PART 1

01

Meet the rulers

Every ruler here made a coin that is in the exhibition. Read each clue.



Herod the Great
client king of Judaea for
Rome, 37–4 BC



Augustus
ruled the Roman Empire,
27 BC–14 AD



Aretas IV
king of Nabataea, east
of Judaea



Pontius Pilate
prefect of Judaea,
26–36 AD



Tiberius
the Caesar on the
Tribute Penny (replica)



Herod Antipas
son of Herod; tetrarch of
Galilee (replica)



Herod Agrippa I
grandson of Herod; made king,
41 AD



Claudius
reigned from Rome, 41–54 AD



Porcius Festus
procurator of Judaea,
c. 59–62 AD

PART 2

02

Sort them by power

Emperor	the Caesar who ruled the whole Roman Empire from Rome
King, tetrarch	a local ruler from Herod's family
Prefect, procurator	a Roman governor of Judaea
Neighboring king	a king of a different land beside Judaea

Write each ruler's name in the correct column. One column has only one name.

EMPEROR IN ROME

HEROD'S FAMILY

ROMAN GOVERNOR

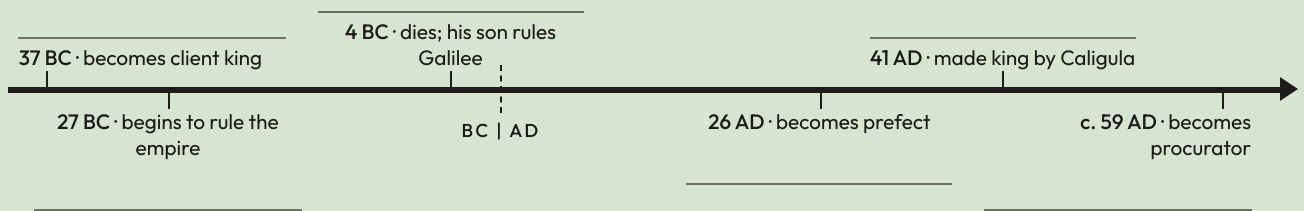
NEIGHBORING KING

03

PART 3

Put them on the timeline

Write the ruler's name on each line, using the clues in Part 1. Years BC count down toward the line marked BC | AD; years AD count up from it.



04

PART 4

Why no face?

Look back at Part 1. The emperor's coin shows his face. Herod's coin shows no person at all. Herod ruled Jewish people, and Jewish law forbade human images on coins. Why would a king choose to follow that law on his money?

05

PART 5

Who would you be sent to?

- Jesus was from Galilee. During his trial, Pilate sent him to the ruler of Galilee (Luke 23). Who was that?
- Paul was a Roman citizen. When Festus held his trial, Paul said, "*I appeal to Caesar!*" (Acts 25). Which kind of ruler did Paul want to judge him?

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

In the exhibition the coins go in order, case by case: the rulers when Jesus was born, then the rulers at his trial, then the rulers the apostles stood before. Each case holds one emperor's coin. Can you name all three?

minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/in-their-hands