

ROCK SOLID EVIDENCE

One of the big names in terms of Biblical discoveries is [Herod the Great \(40-4 BC\)](#). He was Rome's puppet-king over the Jewish people (although he was actually an Idumean) at the time of Christ's birth. The gospel of Matthew says: *"...Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king..."* ([Matthew 2:1](#)).

This wicked king was ambitious and loved building projects, which have left us with masses of evidence for his historicity.

Take, for instance, the mighty fortress of **Masada** in the Judean desert.



It is shaped like a huge ship, 2,000 feet long and 1,000 feet

wide in the middle, with sheer rock faces for sides. Between 36 and 30 BC Herod built a wall 4,590 feet long, 20 feet high and 13 feet wide around the top. It was virtually impregnable....until 73 AD when the Romans eventually conquered it.

Then we could mention the great sea port of **Caesarea** which Herod built at the height of his power in 29-22 BC. For years scholars thought the description of it in Jewish history was an exaggeration, until recent excavations found it was just so! According to Josphus Flavius who saw the city: *"The king ordered the*



building of many structures of 'white stone' (marble). He glorified the city with palaces pleasing to the eye and large dwellings that housed all the inhabitants of the city."



There are many other notable structures left by Herod across the land of Israel, but perhaps the most important is the **Second Temple in Jerusalem**. It was the place where the Lord Jesus and His disciples regularly went to worship. According to the Jewish

leaders at the time, *"It has taken 46 years to build this temple..."* ([John 2:20](#)). Herod's engineers created the Temple Mount platform which still stands today, where the Dome of the Rock sits.



The famous Wailing Wall is also a part of his handiwork on the temple site. Today, these building



projects form part of the evidence for the Biblical king Herod. So no mythological characters here!