



SESSION 2: FOUNDATION – CONTENT

- I. Lineage of the Herods.
 - A. Last session ended with the Roman appointment of the Idumean Herod the Great to rule Judea and Jerusalem. Recall that the Maccabean John Hyrcanus had brought Samaria and Idumea into the Hebrew nation, that Samaritans and Idumeans were not Hebrews, but were forced to adopt that faith. Appointing HTG was a grievous mistake on the part of Rome; it caused great anxiety and conflict among the Hebrews.
 - B. HTG died in 4BC, but after Christ's birth (and his terrible attempt to kill this possible threat to his reign). Rule of the Hebrews was divided among his three sons, Archelaus (Judea), Antipas (Gallilee and Perea), and Philip (Iturea and Phoenicia). Archelaus was a tyrant – so much so that in 6AD he was deposed by Rome. Philip was peaceful; he created the great commercial city of Caesarea Philippi.
 - C. Herod Antipas was present at Jesus's trial; he too was a tyrant and was deposed by Rome in 37AD. He was replaced by Herod Agrippa I, who had the apostle James killed and arrested Peter. He died in 44AD.
 - D. Herod Agrippa II succeeded and was present when Paul pleaded his case to Festus. Under him great conflict and lawlessness among the Hebrews grew, until Titus began the siege of Jerusalem in 70AD.
- II. Christ and the Pharisees.
 - A. The Hebrews observed the Torah – the first five books of the Old Testament. For several centuries rabbis had assembled the Talmud, or oral law. This consisted of the Babylonian Talmud and the Jerusalem Talmud, or Mishna. There were hundreds of civil and religious requirements, along with interpretations and expositions by rabbis, which are observed and learned by Orthodox Jews and their rabbis today. (On the other hand, Reformed Jews of today can perhaps be compared to the Sadducees.)
 - B. In Matthew 23:23-33 we see that Christ strongly disparages this perversion or distraction of real faith and Godly life. [Readings]
- III. Foundational Aspects of the Christian Church.

There were many things we can consider as the foundational blocks upon which the early Church rested, relied and grew. Considering its future they were certainly needed, and our Triune God provided them all!