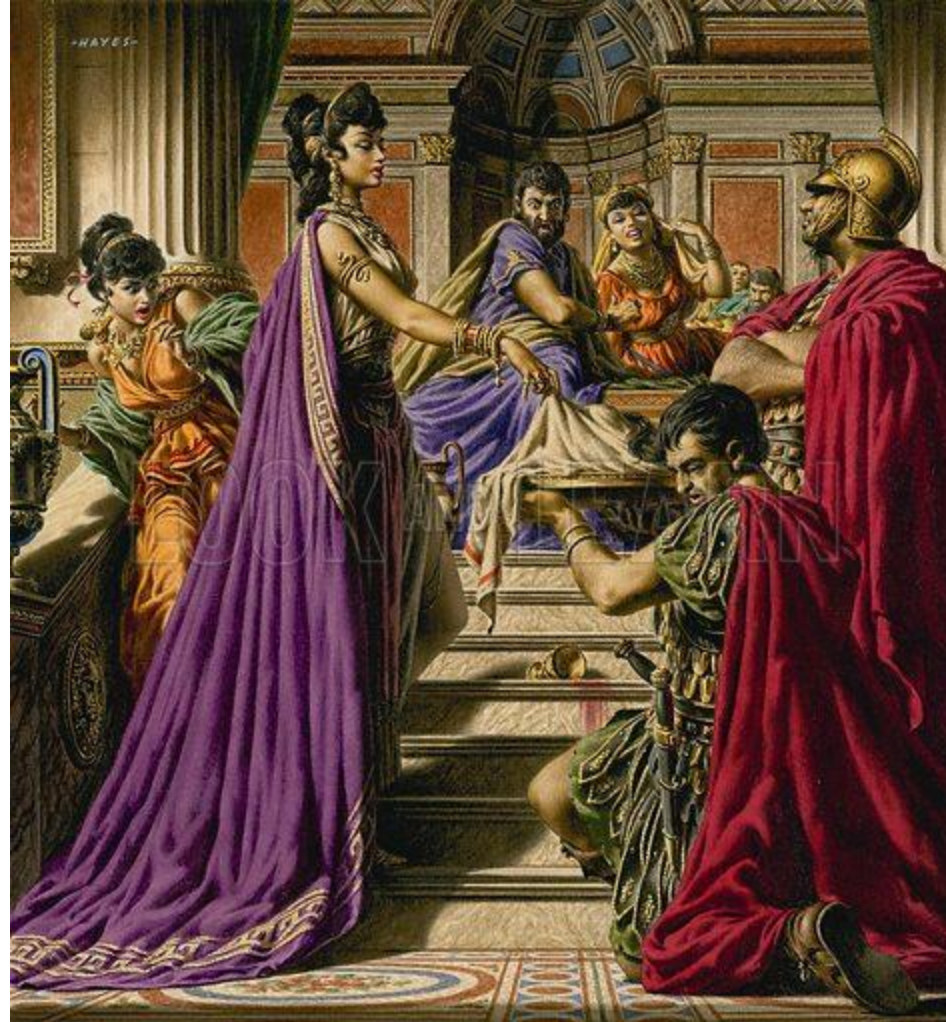




**The Death of John the Baptist
(Mark 6:14-29)**

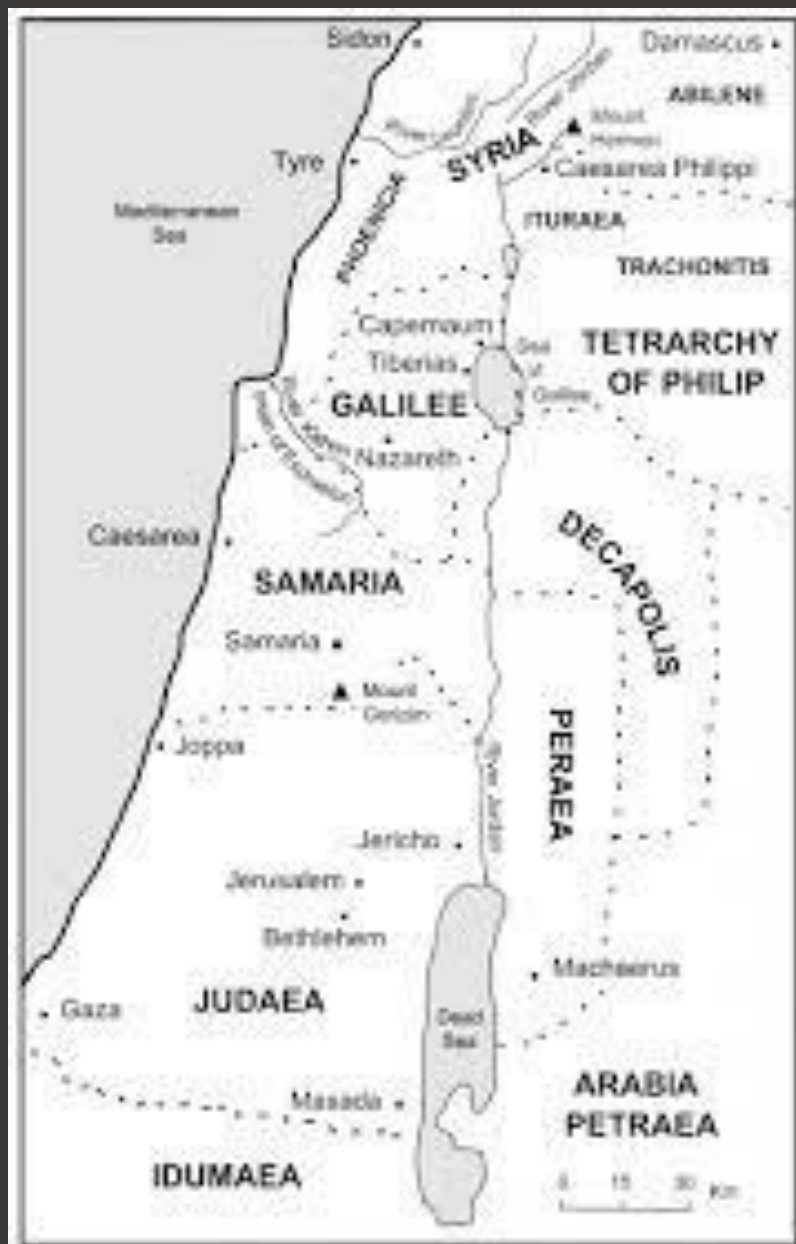


**The Death of John the Baptist
(Mark 6:14-29)**



The Death of John the Baptist (Mark 6:14-29)





The Area Ruled by Herod Antipas



A. Jesus' ministry is noticed by top officials for first time

B. Herod's guilt and misidentification of Jesus

- 14 King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him."
- 15 But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old."
- 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

A. The Exposition:

Two Opinions of John the Baptist (6:17-20)

- 17 For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her.
- 18 For John had been saying to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.”
- 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not,
- 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.

B. The Plot: A Birthday Party Spirals Out of Control (6:21-25)

- ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee.
- ²² For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."
- ²³ And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."
- ²⁴ And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."
- ²⁵ And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

B. The Plot: A Birthday Party Spirals Out of Control (6:27-28)

- 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison
- 28 and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother.

C. Narrative Tension: Whether to Do the Right Thing (6:26, 29)

1. Herod Antipas (6:26)

²⁶ And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her.

2. John's disciples (6:29)

²⁹ When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

D. The Characters: An Impulsive King and a Revengeful Queen

1. Herod Antipas: impetuous, weak, ambitious
2. Herodias: revengeful, scheming, cruel
3. Salome (Herodias' daughter): moral complacency

First century Jewish historian: Josephus

E. The Genre: Earthly Tragedy or Divine Comedy?

- Earthly Tragedy?

E. The Genre: Divine Comedy?

- *Dante Alighieri* (1265-1321)
- *The Divine Comedy*:
 - Inferno
 - Purgatorio
 - Paradiso



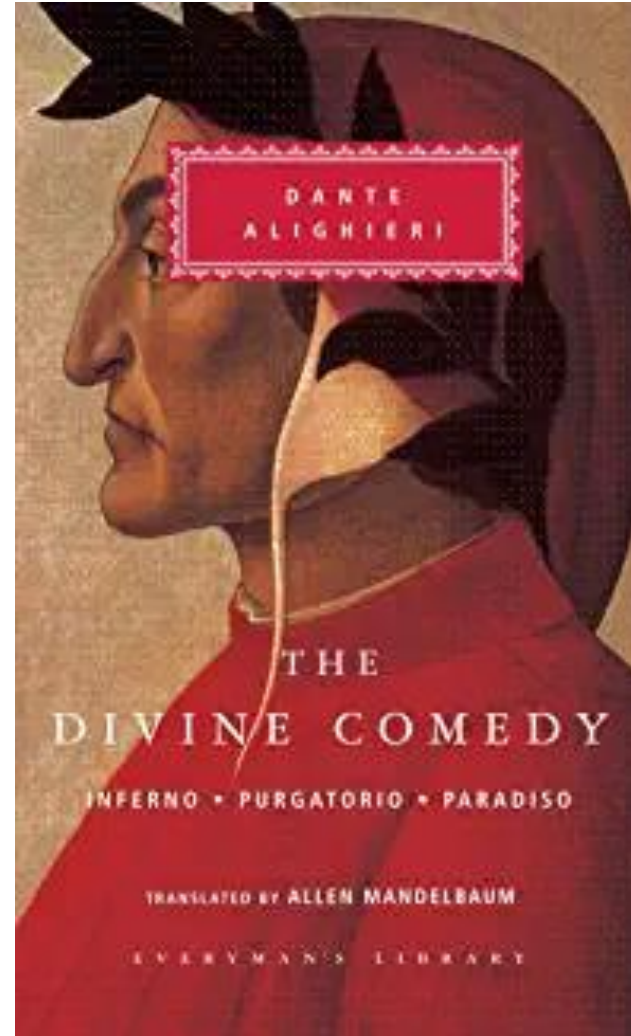
PENGUIN CLASSICS

DANTE
The Divine Comedy:
Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso

Translated by ROBIN KIRKPATRICK

E. The Genre: Divine Comedy?

- *Dante Alighieri* (1265-1321)
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The Divine Comedy: A Wider Perspective

- ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. (Matthew 10:28)
- ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)
- our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 15:25-26)

The Divine Comedy: A Wider Perspective

- ¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)

III. Takeaways

- A. Stand fast to God's moral laws despite cultural pressures
- B. Feelings of guilt as opportunities to restore relationships
- C. Have a Perspective Larger than Life
- D. Fruits of the Spirit vs. Works of the Flesh

Works of the Flesh vs. Fruits of the Spirit

- ¹⁶ **But I say, walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- ¹⁹ **Now the works of the flesh** are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
- ²² **But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (Galatians 5:16-24)

Let Us Pray

