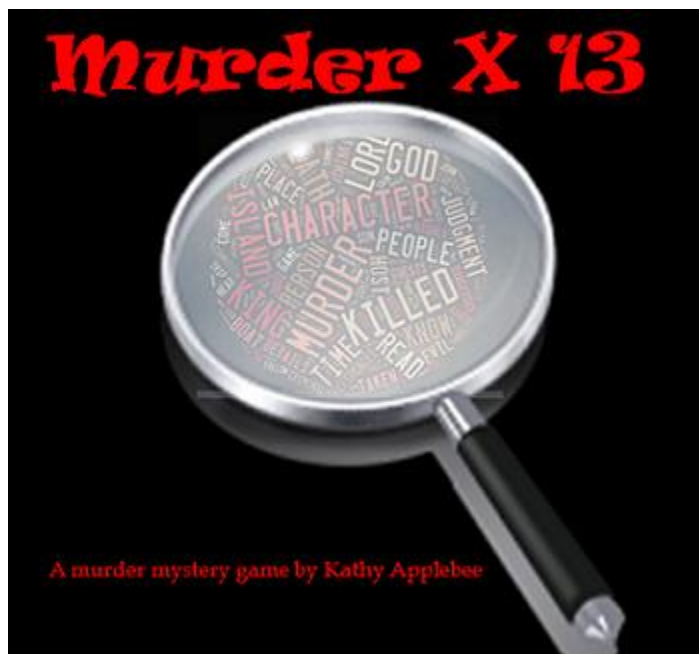


Murder Times Thirteen

By Kathy Applebee



Your host packet contains the following to help you set up a fabulous game.

Page 1	A brief overview and suggestions for the host
Page 2	Host time line
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Brief overview of Murder Times Thirteen

Various murderers in the Bible are brought together when one of them has killed again. Can the others figure out who the killer is and keep themselves from being his or her next victim?

Characters include: Abimeleck, Athaliah, Cain, David, Herodias, Herod the Great, Jezebel, Joash, Manasseh, Moses, Saul, Pharaoh, Zimri

Suggestions for the host

Characters

Dossiers may be handed out randomly by gender or as host you may cast your guests in the roles you choose for them. If you want to be surprised by the ending use just the WHO YOU ARE portion of the character descriptions to select roles. If you read the complete character descriptions you will know all the details of the murder including who did it.

You may choose to hand them out several days before the giving people more time to prepare their character, costume, props, etc. counting on everyone to be present. You may wish to hold them until the guests arrive in case you have cancellations or no shows. Last minute cancellations and no shows occasionally occur. It's wise to line someone up in advance in case of a no show.

If you have more than 13 people, those people can be crew members on the boat OR choose other Bible characters.

Props

Pencils or pens will be necessary to fill out the Whodunit forms

Sticky notes for the following characters:

A "mark" for Cain (a non-permanent marker or wash off tattoo works)

Jezebel should have eye shadow.

Host Time Line for Murder Times Thirteen

For first time hosts we recommend you follow the time line more carefully than hosts with experience. It is however a suggested timeline not a cast-in-stone law.

To start:

Select a date, location, guests and refreshments

Decide if you will give characters sheets before the game or after guests arrive.

Decide on refreshments

Think about if you want the guest to come in costume

Two to three weeks before the game:

Modify invitations for your event and print one for each prospective guest.

Decide if you are going to have guests come in costume

Finalize your menu.

Have alternative guests in mind in case of an emergency cancellation.

Run off character dossiers for reference or to give to guests accepting the invitation to attend. You may also

choose to give them their name and scripture references only in case they are unable to attend.

The day of the game:

Set the scene with any music, additional props and the set up for refreshments that you have chosen.
Run off host instructions and one rules/Whodunit sheet per player.

When the guests have arrived:

If guests are bringing some of the refreshments indicate where they should be placed.
Distribute character dossiers if you did not give them out earlier. (Nametags if using them)
Distribute a copy of the rules to each player.
Begin by reading aloud the opening statement and then follow the rest of the directions on HOST INSTRUCTIONS

HOST INSTRUCTIONS

(to be run off and read during the game by the host. SPOILER alert: Do NOT read the arrest warrant if host wants to be surprised)

OPENING STATEMENT

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I use both of those terms very loosely since the vast majority of you are neither. Instead, this might be the most monstrous group of people ever assembled, a motley crew of mass murderers, thugs and homicidal maniacs.

Whether in self-defense or cold blood, every one of you has killed at least one human being. That is quite clear. Your motives, means and guilt are less clear. For the purposes of this investigation, we consider someone ordering a “hit” as guilty as if they had committed the murder themselves.

Because each of you is considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. You all had the opportunity to speak to the judge before the final judgment before the throne of God. On the return trip the captain of the boat ferrying you was murdered. This means one of you has killed again. Rather than waste any more time or risk any more lives, we’ve decided to give you all the opportunity to figure out who killed the captain.

You’ll have the opportunity to question each other. Delve into each other’s sordid pasts. Dredge up sordid secrets. Figure out who the guilty party is. If a majority cannot decide on one suspect as the murderer of the captain, I guess we might as well execute the whole lot of you. I’m not quite sure how we’d do that since you’re already dead, but just go with it.

WE NOW BEGIN ROUND ONE

Even though we are quite sure many of you have aliases, we'd like to begin with each of you stating your given name, what murder(s) you have been accused of prior to this evening and whether you are guilty or innocent of this/these crimes. We'll start with (choose a character)

ROUND TWO (after everyone has answered round one questions)

Now let us begin the process of discovering which of you are connected in some fashion. For round two, explain were doing on the ship just prior to being brought back here. Also inform those assembled whether or not you know or know of any of the other suspects. You'll be able to share with the rest what you know about them and if they could be the killer during round 4.

ROUND THREE

Please take this opportunity to do some investigating on your own. (indicate where the snacks are) We will reconvene in (announce how many minutes) minutes. But remember, everyone here has killed before and might not hesitate to do it again.

ROUND FOUR

Now that we are reassembled, I suggest you consider motive, means and opportunity. Why would one of you kill the captain? Share anything you know about the other suspects at this time. Perhaps that will shed light on their motives.

ROUND FIVE

Consider who had the means? The captain appears to have been strangled to death. The bruising on his throat would indicate a chain of some sort was used. The size and shape of the bruises would be consistent with the chains of the shackles that bound each and every one of you.

Opportunity? Who had opportunity? Remind us of what you said you were doing at the time the murder occurred. We won't bother with taking turns. Who'd like to begin?

ROUND SIX

Let's take another short break and reconvene (announce time)

ROUND SEVEN

An additional piece of evidence has come to light. The killer of the captain had killed many times before, both family and foe. I will ask each of you to fill out your "Whodunit" in just a minute. Before we do, does anyone have anything they'd like to add, clarify or accuse? (allow time for everyone to have their say)

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please fill out your “whodunit” and pass them (instruct characters how they will be collected. Have each one read aloud. Then read the arrest warrant.)

READ the ARREST WARRANT

Our killer tonight thought nothing of slaughtering family and foe alike. Nor did they ever repent or seek forgiveness. Paul and David sought forgiveness, even though they needed some supernatural intervention before they did. We can eliminate them.

Herodias was a manipulator; however to the best of our knowledge, she only wanted John the Baptist silenced permanently. While she is guilty of his death, she did not kill the captain. But she wasn't the only one who killed to keep someone quiet.

Joash, who barely escaped being murdered himself, had his cousin and foster brother, Zechariah killed when he didn't like his preaching. It's a shame too. Perhaps if he had listened instead, his own officials would not have murdered him. But he didn't kill the captain. Neither did his grandmother, Athaliah, although she did slaughter her own grandchildren to ascend the throne. Seems to be a family trait passed down through the generations. Athaliah's grandfather, Omri killed Zimri. But neither Zimri nor Athaliah killed the captain.

To the best of our knowledge Cain only killed his brother Abel and Moses never killed a member of his family. We can eliminate them. Pharaoh, to the best of our knowledge never killed family members, so he isn't the captain's killer. But he was responsible for the deaths of many babies, just like Herod.

Speaking of baby killers, Manasseh sacrificed his own son to an idol. According to the Bible he led his people into more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites. He also “shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end.”

That leaves us with two other mass murderers – Jezebel and Abimelek. Abimelek with the aid of his followers murdered his seventy brothers, all except Jotham, the youngest. Jezebel killed Naboth over a vineyard and as many of the Lord's prophets as she could get her hands on. But she would not have been strong enough to strangle the captain.

But Abimelek was. He also had a band of scoundrels who followed his orders, including getting him a key to his shackles. If only they had managed to find the boat, they would have assisted in his escape. But there will be no escape. Arrest and detain Abimelek for the murder of the captain.

Invitation

You are invited to attend a murder mystery game being hosted by [fill in your name] at [fill in game location, time, date and phone number].

This mystery takes place at the Isle of Judgment – the place people go to be judged for their deeds while alive. Every character in this game has been responsible for at least one death. Some will want to cheat death, even if it means killing again. (Don't be concerned with the details of the setting or how someone could cheat death. Just go with it. Focusing on the characters, their lives and personalities is what is important.)

Each guest will have a dual role as one of the suspects and one of the investigators in this murder inquiry. All the guests will try to solve the mystery while protecting any secrets they might have. You do not need to be an actor or have knowledge of investigations to have a great time.

When your host gives you your character dossier, please do not show it to anyone, before or during the game. The dossier will explain who you are, who and what you know and what happened just prior to the murder. It is for your eyes only. If you have questions prior to the game contact [fill in host name and phone number]

As it is essential all characters be present, please inform the host if something arises preventing you from attending.

PLAYING RULES

1. No one may look at another person's character dossier.
2. Lying is not permitted, unless you are the murderer. Only the murderer may lie.
3. Fabrication to enhance one's character is not only allowed but encouraged.
4. If one does not want to answer truthfully one may do as in real life - evade the question, change the subject, tell partial truths or flat out refuse to answer.
5. It is possible to have more than one murderer
6. At the end of the game you will be asked who you think did it, how and why.
7. Certain characters may kill other characters. To do so, they must be alone with the character and place a sticky note reading "Dead" on the other character's back without that character noticing. This may ONLY BE DONE after round five.
8. If you catch another character in the act of trying to kill a third character, you may loudly notify everyone. This will serve as a warning to that third character. For purposes of this game, they will have "escaped" being murdered. Or you may decide to NOT say anything, thus allowing them to die.
9. If you see another character with a "dead" sign on their back, you should inform that character (and everyone else) that he or she is dead.
10. Dead characters cannot speak after they are informed they are dead. They cannot do anything to indicate who (or who they think) killed them.

Who dunit? (Your host will tell you when to fill this out)

Your name:

Who did it? _____

How? _____

Why? _____

The character I nominate to get the Academy Award of the evening:

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Suggestions for Bible classes and youth groups

This party game can be used as a launching point or supplement to a Bible study. Delving into character analysis helps students of history or the Bible to make deeper and longer lasting connections and provides a context in which further study can take place.

Before playing, it is helpful to have students read the scriptures on their character sheets to understand the backstory, personality and possible interactions of the characters.

The following scriptures and discussion questions can be used as a follow up to the game.

Your character

What did you find most distasteful about playing your character? What was easy? If they were alive today, would you want to meet them? Why or why not? Which currently alive person did they remind you of? How?

Which character would have been the easiest or hardest to play? Why? There are a number of other killers who were NOT included. Are there any you would have included? NOT included? Which ones and why?

If you could go back in time and give your character one piece of advice, what would it be? Do you think they would take your advice?

Many of the characters were leaders, some of entire nations. Does this make their actions “worse” than others? Why or why not? Someone once said “Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” What do you think of that statement? What would your character think of it?

Many of the characters murdered their own family members. Why do you think that happened? Do you think they were influenced by other family members who lived before them?

David, Paul and Moses all repented, asked for forgiveness and were forgiven of their murders in this scenario. How do you think they felt about that? Why? Do you think it is fair for God to forgive them and not some of the others who didn't repent? Why or why not?

New Law vs. Old Law

Read Exodus 20:13 & Deuteronomy 5:17 (You shall not murder) **and Numbers 35:16-26; 30, 32-34** If anyone strikes someone a fatal blow with an iron object, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death. Or if anyone is holding a stone and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death. Or if anyone is holding a wooden object and strikes someone a fatal blow with it, that person is a murderer; the murderer is to be put to death. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death; when the avenger comes upon the murderer, the avenger shall put the murderer to death. If anyone with malice aforethought shoves another or throws something at them intentionally so that they die or if out of enmity one person hits another with their fist so that the other dies, that person is to be put to death; that person is a murderer. The avenger of blood shall put the murderer to death when they meet.

But if without enmity someone suddenly pushes another or throws something at them unintentionally or, without seeing them, drops on them a stone heavy enough to kill them, and they die, then since that other person was not an enemy and no harm was intended, the assembly must judge between the accused and the avenger of blood according to these regulations

Anyone who kills a person is to be put to death as a murderer only on the testimony of witnesses. But no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. Do not accept a ransom for the life of a murderer, who deserves to die. They are to be put to death.

Do not pollute the land where you are. Bloodshed pollutes the land, and atonement cannot be made for the land on which blood has been shed, except by the blood of the one who shed it. Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell, for I, the LORD, dwell among the Israelites.”

1. What difference does God acknowledge between intentional and unintentional harm or death?
2. Why not allow the death penalty on the testimony of one witness?
3. How can bloodshed pollute a land?
4. What situations are NOT considered murder?
5. Is suicide murder? Why or why not?
6. Read Leviticus 19:16-18, Deuteronomy 19:1-13 and 22:8 (When you build a new house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.) What could be classified as “reckless endangerment”: driving drunk, not immunizing a child against a disease, not having a fence around a swimming pool?

Read **Psalm 94:1-7**

The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting.
They crush your people, LORD; they oppress your inheritance.

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They slay the widow and the foreigner; they murder the fatherless.
They say, “The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob takes no notice.”

1. Who does the Psalmist say should be the avenger of wrongs?
2. What type of victims is mentioned? Why do you suppose they were singled out?
3. If David wrote this Psalm, how does this tie in with Saul’s attempts to kill David and David’s reaction to Saul?

Read **Proverbs 28: 15-17** Like a roaring lion or a charging bear is a wicked ruler over a helpless people. A tyrannical ruler practices extortion, but one who hates ill-gotten gain will enjoy a long reign. Anyone tormented by the guilt of murder will seek refuge in the grave; let no one hold them back.

1. Why do you think Solomon singled out rulers?
2. Why do you think people are tormented by guilt? Would it be life long as Solomon implies?

Read **Isaiah 33:15-16** Those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes, who stop their ears against plots of murder and shut their eyes against contemplating evil—they are the ones who will dwell on the heights, whose refuge will be the mountain fortress. Their bread will be supplied, and water will not fail them.

1. Isaiah does mention murder, only plots and contemplation. Why?
2. What promises are given to those who actively avoid plots and contemplation of evil?

Read **Matthew 5:21-22**: “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

1. What does “Raca” mean? What would be the modern day equivalent?
2. What is the difference between “judgment” and the “council”?
3. Why would anger and murder have the same penalty? Is this fair? Why or why not?

Read **Ephesians 4:26**. How does this compare with Matthew 5:22?

1. How hard is it to control anger? Why? How can we control our emotions and actions?
2. Read **Luke 6:27-28**. What is Jesus council regarding someone who hates or curses you? Is this a natural reaction? Why or why not? How does this go beyond what was taught in the law given to Moses?

What is in the heart?

Read **1 John 3:11-15** For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother's were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

1. Read **Genesis 4:2-16**. How did Cain progress from anger to murder?
2. Are we our brother's keepers? How?

Read **Mark 7:14-23**: Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them."

After he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about this parable. "Are you so dull?" he asked. "Don't you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn't go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body." (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.)

He went on: "What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."

1. Where does Jesus say evil originates?

Matthew 15:16-20 "Are you still so dull?" Jesus asked them. "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them."

1. Murder begins as a ____ (thought/hatred) which leads to the ____ (action) of murder.
2. Read **James 1:13-15; 4:1-3** How does this tie in?

Read **Romans 12:14-21 & 13: 8-10** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," "and whatever other command there may

be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

3. How did Paul simplify the Law of Moses in these passages? Is it too simplistic? Why or why not?
4. What is the most difficult part of letting God do the avenging?

Judgment

Read **Romans 1:18-32** The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error.

Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

1. Paul makes a strong case against both mind and action. Why?
2. What type of progression do you detect in this passage?
3. Can a heart have room for both the negative and positive qualities at the same time? Why or why not?
4. Draw an outline of a heart in your journal. Pencil in any of these traits that are currently in your heart.

You may want to write them in different size letters to indicate how much each one fills your heart.

5. Draw a second heart outline and fill it with what you would like to have in your heart.
6. What do you with God's help need to do to change the current heart to your ideal heart?

Read **James 2: 10-15** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

1. This passage would seem to indicate murder and adultery are equally bad. Agree or disagree? Why?
2. How can someone who commits just one sin be as guilty as one who committed them all?

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Character Dossiers for Murder Times Thirteen

WHO YOU ARE: Abimelek, son of Gideon the judge by a concubine. When Gideon died, the citizens of Shechem, were inclined to follow you, for they said, “He is related to us.” They gave you seventy shekels to hire reckless scoundrels as followers to help make you king.

WHO YOU KILLED: Your 70 half-brothers. You and your followers murdered all you seventy brothers, except Jotham, the youngest, who escaped by hiding. Then you became judge of Israel.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Judges 9

ATTITUDE: Arrogant, belligerent, you have a chip on your shoulder the size of Texas.

THE DETAILS: At your trial, Jotham reminded the judge that your father fought and risked his life to rescue Israel from the Midianites. He said you acted dishonorably. The citizens of Shechem testified against you that when they rebelled you set their stronghold on fire with the people still inside. So all the people in the tower of Shechem, about a thousand men and women, also died. You were sentenced to die a most dishonorable death – a woman in Thebez would drop an upper millstone on you head and cracked your skull.

WHO YOU KNOW: No one personally.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. Unless it serves as a distraction. Or helps you escape.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. But you were not worried about it since everyone else was too. All the better for you because you have arranged with your band of scoundrels to spring you.

On the way back, you slipped out of your shackles with a key one of your scoundrels arranged for you to have. You used the chains to choke the boat’s captain and looked in vain for your men to arrive in another boat and get you away. Some sailor discovered the dead captain and a commotion erupted. You scurried back to your place, pretending to still be shackled while you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

You know it is only a matter of time until someone comes for you. You just have to keep the others distracted from discovering you are the captain’s killer until they do. You’ll do anything to escape including lying, killing, false accusations, etc. When it is time to fill out the “Whodunit” be sure to accuse someone else.

WHO YOU ARE: Athaliah, daughter of King Ahab, queen of Israel for 6 years.

WHO YOU KILLED: All your grandchildren except Joash

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Kings 11: 1- 16, 2 Chronicles 22:10 – 23:15

ATTITUDE: Ruthless, merciless, conniving and power hungry. You come from a long line of power hungry killers. If grandpa, mom, dad, everyone else resorts to murder, you figured you might as well too.

THE DETAILS: Ahaziah was your only surviving son. Arab raiders killed all the others. When your son, King Ahaziah, was killed you proceeded to destroy the whole royal family. But Jehosheba (Ahaziah's sister), the daughter of King Jehoram (Athaliah's husband) hid baby Joash (your grandson) just before he was murdered. She hid him and his nurse in a bedroom at the temple of the LORD for six years while you ruled the land. In the seventh year Jehoiada (husband of Jehosheba) had Joash crowned king and you executed.

WHO YOU KNOW: Jezebel, your mother or step mother. You're not sure how you feel about her. She never had time for you except to have your father Ahab marry you off for political reasons.

Joash – your slimy little grandson who got away. If it wasn't for him, you'd have been queen allot longer.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: Joash. If you have the opportunity to get Joash alone, you may choose to kill him.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion took place and you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Cain. You must have a visible tattoo or other mark as per Genesis 4.

WHO YOU KILLED: Your brother, Abel.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Genesis 4:1-12; 1 John 3:12 (Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brothers were righteous.)

ATTITUDE: Very angry, belligerent. You never get a break, nothing you ever do is good enough but it might be because you do what you want to do, not what you're told to do.

THE DETAILS: You were found guilty of murder for talking your brother into going out to the field and killing him there. The judge said "Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground." He sentenced you to a curse that when you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you and made you a restless wanderer on the earth.

SAYING: Am I my brother's keeper?

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. But you are very wary of others trying to kill you. (Genesis 4: 13-15: Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.")

But the LORD said to him, "Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over." Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.)

As long as the mark is visible, no other character is able to kill you. If you wind up with a sticky note on your back, it was just a flesh wound, not lethal and you are alive.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion took place and you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: David, King of Israel.

WHO YOU KILLED: Uriah

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Samuel 11 & 12, Psalms 51

ATTITUDE: Repentant and meek. In your own words in Psalms 51: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. I know my transgressions and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

THE DETAILS: One evening you saw a beautiful woman bathing. You knew she was the wife of one of your bravest soldiers, Uriah the Hittite. After committing adultery with her you tried to trick her husband into believing he had gotten her pregnant so you would not be found out. It didn't work so you wrote a letter to your general Joab and sent it with Uriah. In it you wrote, "Put Uriah out in front where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

Joab obeyed. Uriah died. You married Bathsheba but Nathan the prophet confronted you with your sin. You confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the LORD, the son born to you will die.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. But you do want to see justice done and you would try to keep an innocent person from being killed.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion interrupted your recitation of Psalms 51 and the new Psalm you were in the process of composing. You were taken off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Herodias, divorced from Philip and married to your brother-in-law, Herod Antipas. You hate having people talk about you in an unfavorable way.

WHO YOU KILLED: John the Baptist. You have also been implicated in the beheading of James, the apostle but you had nothing to do with that or Peter's arrest. That was all Herod. Besides, if John had kept his trap shut, you wouldn't have plotted to have him killed.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Mark 6:14-29, Acts 12:1-3

ATTITUDE: It's not your fault. Herod didn't have to make that oath. Your daughter didn't have to follow your suggestion. John had it coming to him anyway. He was a nut case, dressing in camel skins and eating wild locusts and honey. It was a public service to get rid of him.

THE DETAILS: Herod had given orders to have John arrested because you pestered him until he did it. John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." You nursed a grudge against John and wanted to kill him. But Herod feared John and protected him, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man. When Herod liked to listen to him and you were afraid he just might send you back to your first husband, Philip. Yuck.

Finally an opportune time came. On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. When your daughter, Salome, came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom." Salome asked you, "What shall I ask for?" You replied "The head of John the Baptist," So Herod immediately sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. The man went, beheaded John in the prison, and brought back his head on a platter. He presented it to the girl, and she gave it to you.

WHO YOU KNOW: Herod the Great. Stupid man should have arranged for you to marry Herod Antipas in the first place instead of his other stupid son Philip.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: Herod, maybe. Just depends what kind of mood you're in.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion took place and you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Herod the Great, King of Judea. You are a paranoid, power hungry fool.

WHO YOU KILLED: A number of people including wives, sons, priests and all the babies in the vicinity of Bethlehem right after Jesus was born.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Matthew 2:13-18

ATTITUDE: Paranoid, you think everyone is out to get you. You believe power makes right. You would do anything you had to, including murder, to keep your throne.

THE DETAILS: You had ordered the Magi to report back to you regarding this king of the Jews. When you realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, you were furious, and ordered your soldiers to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under; in accordance with the time you had learned from the Magi.

WHO YOU KNOW: Herodias. Trouble making daughter-in-law. She should have stayed married to Philip and not caused your son Herod so much trouble. She probably goaded him into arresting Peter and beheading James. Women cannot be trusted.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: Just about anyone who might possibly threaten your throne. A former ruler, a former wannabe ruler. Maybe Herodias if she talks too much.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. That drove you nearly crazy. How could you possibly fend off an attack if you can't see it coming? On the return trip some sort of commotion took place and you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island. You're just glad you're still alive.

WHO YOU ARE: Jezebel, beautiful, seductive, witch, daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, worshipper of Baal and wife of Ahab, king of Israel. You are used to having your way.

WHO YOU KILLED: Naboth. The man refused to sell your husband the king of Israel his vineyard so you took care of it. Those prophets of Jehovah were making trouble so you took care of them too. All except that stupid Elijah.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 1 Kings 21:1-16

ATTITUDE: You deserve to rule the world. Everyone else is just around to serve you.

THE DETAILS: The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth." But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my ancestors." So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my ancestors." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat. You came in and asked him, "Why are you so sullen? Why won't you eat?"

He told you about Naboth's refusal so you said "Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up. I'll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." You wrote letters in Ahab's name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth's city with him. The letter said "Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people. But seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death."

So the elders and nobles did as you asked and killed Naboth. You also have ordered the execution of a number of the Lord's prophets. You just wish you could have offed Elijah.

WHO YOU KNOW: You daughter or step daughter Athaliah. (you had more important things to think about than which kids were yours. Besides, having children could ruin your figure). Athaliah may have ice water for blood, like you have, but she's not as beautiful as you.

Zimri – weak, spineless fool. Your father-in-law, Omri, dethroned him after Zimri ruled for only 7 days. What a wimp. You like to goad him with that.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. Unless they try to kill you first.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. That also meant you couldn't be seen and being as beautiful as you are, you hated that. Plus it messed up your make up. On the return trip some sort of commotion took place and you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island. At least they finally took that hood off. Maybe you can flirt your way out of this.

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WHO YOU ARE: Joash, King of Judah.

WHO YOU KILLED: Your cousin Zechariah, a priest

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25, Luke 12: 47-50. Jesus said “Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary.

ATTITUDE: You have a guilty conscience. Zechariah’s dying words have haunted you all these years. You wished you had been good but you are easily swayed by others. You’ll agree with whoever seems to be the strongest. Whether they are right or wrong is of little consequence.

THE DETAILS: When you were a baby, your father the king was killed. Your grandmother Athaliah proceeded to destroy the whole royal family but your aunt Jehosheba saved you. She and her husband Jehoiada hid you at the temple of the LORD for six years while Athaliah ruled the land. In the seventh year Jehoiada had you crowned king and your grandmother executed. You were a good king until Jehoiada died. You got talked into abandoning the temple of the LORD to worship idols. Your cousin, who you had been brought up with, Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest, warned you and the people. He said, “This is what God says: ‘Why do you disobey the LORD’s commands? You will not prosper. Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.’ You ordered him stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD’s temple. You forgot the kindness Zechariah’s father Jehoiada had shown you, how he and Jehosheba saved you. You killed his son, who said as he lay dying, “May the LORD see this and call you to account.”

When the Arameans attacked you later on you were severely wounded. Your own officials conspired against you for murdering the son of Jehoiada the priest, and they killed you in your bed.

WHO YOU KNOW: Athaliah, kind of. You never met her but you know she tried to kill you when you were a baby. Maybe it’s all her fault you turned out wrong. It is all her fault you spent the first 7 years of your life cooped up, hiding in a bedroom in the temple.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. Besides without servants to do it for you, you wouldn’t dare try.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion took place. You were convinced it was the Arameans or some official coming to get you. You wish you’d lived a better life and then you were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: King Manasseh

WHO YOU KILLED: Your own son and more innocent people than can be counted.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 2 Kings 21

ATTITUDE: You are a sick, sadistic maniac who is evil incarnate. You thought nothing of throwing your live baby son into a furnace to burn alive.

THE DETAILS: You were twelve years old when you became king. You worshipped Baal, the stars, even sacrificing your own son in the fire. You practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists and did much evil in the eyes of the LORD. You led your people into more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites. You also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. But that's never stopped you before.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion interrupted your ranting and raving that these stupid commoners had no right to detain a king... You were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Moses, step grandson of Pharaoh and leader of the Israelites.

WHO YOU KILLED: After you had grown up, you went out to where your Israelite people were and watched them at their hard labor. You saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew. After looking this way and that and seeing no one, you killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. The next day you went out and saw two Hebrews fighting. You asked the one in the wrong, “Why are you hitting your fellow Hebrew?” The man said, “Who made you ruler and judge over us? Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian?” You were afraid and thought, “What I did must have become known.” When Pharaoh heard about this, he tried to kill you but you fled from Pharaoh to Median.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Exodus 2:11-15, plus most of Exodus - Deuteronomy

ATTITUDE: Humble, you stutter some and wish your brother Aaron were here to speak for you.

THE DETAILS: You pled guilty, threw yourself on the mercy of the court and had your sentence suspended and the 40 years you put up with the complaining Israelites counted as time served.

WHO YOU KNOW: Pharaoh, kind of. He was your adopted mother’s father. You didn’t have much to do with him but your real mom told you how he ordered all the babies thrown into the Nile. You don’t like him.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. It is God’s place to take vengeance, not yours. However, you would try to stop an innocent person from being killed, if you could.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion took place and you wondered if something like the parting of the Red Sea was happening. (see Exodus 14:21-31 for details) It wasn’t. You were taken off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Saul AKA Paul, a Jew, born in Tarsus so you are also a Roman citizen. You are highly educated and studied under Gamaliel. You were thoroughly trained in the Law of Moses. You have trouble seeing since you were stoned and left for dead.

WHO YOU KILLED: Many Christian men and women were arrested and killed because of you.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Acts 7, 8, 22, 1 Corinthians 4:

ATTITUDE: Very sorry for all the evil you did. You do not feel you deserve forgiveness, yet God forgave you when you were baptized. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 (You care very little if you are judged by any human court; but even if your conscience is clear, but that does not make you innocent. It is the Lord who judges you. The Lord is the one who will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.)

THE DETAILS: You consented to Stephen's death. You began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, you dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. You breathed out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples and not satisfied to just persecute Christians in Judea, you went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if you found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, you might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Then you met Jesus and turned your life around. God chose you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You are his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. Your life has been full of hardship but you are God's servant now. His will be done.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one. You're a "sayer not a slayer" since your conversion. It is God's place to take vengeance and your place to preach so people repent. If the opportunity presents itself, you will try to convince any guilty parties to repent and be saved.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion interrupted your singing of hymns. At first you thought it might be another earthquake like the one in Philippi that freed you and Silas from prison. (see Acts 16:22-34 for details) But it wasn't. You were taken off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Pharaoh. The great leader of the greatest people on earth – the Egyptians. Death does not scare you but not having an elaborate funeral and embalming does. How can you live in glory in the afterlife unless you have a fancy funeral and huge pyramid filled with stuff?

WHO YOU KILLED: Hundreds of Hebrew baby boys. No big deal. They were slave babies.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: Exodus 1

ATTITUDE: You are Pharaoh, the mighty ruler of mighty Egypt. All other peoples and tribes and beneath you.

THE DETAILS: You were worried the Hebrew slaves would side with your enemies if war came to Egypt so you ordered the male Hebrew babies thrown into the Nile River.

WHO YOU KNOW: That stupid Moses. He ruined your whole country. You never should have let your daughter adopt him. He should have drowned in the Nile.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: Moses, maybe.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. You do not see why you didn't have your own private barge and if they had to put shackles on, they could have at least been gold ones. On the return trip some sort of commotion interrupted your mental planning of your mummification and construction of your burial pyramid. You were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island.

WHO YOU ARE: Zimri, commander of half of the chariots of King Elah. You are wimpy and whiny when backed into a corner but try to act like a bossy general to cover up.

WHO YOU KILLED: King Elah son of Baasha of Israel. He was in Tirzah getting drunk in the home of Arza, the palace administrator. You came in, struck him down and killed him. Then you proclaimed yourself king. Then you killed off Baasha's whole family, not sparing a single male, whether relative or friend.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES: 1 Kings 16:8-19

THE DETAILS: You were found guilty of Regicide – murder of a king.

ATTITUDE: It's not your fault. You were just fulfilling prophesy that the prophet Jehu declared. (in accordance with the word of the LORD spoken against Baasha through the prophet Jehu because of all the sins Baasha and his son Elah had committed and had caused Israel to commit, so that they aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, by their worthless idols.) Why should you be labeled a murderer? Somebody had to kill him, didn't they? Might as well be you. And you might as well be king in his place. If only that stupid Omri had left well enough alone. But no, he had to lay siege to the city and make you commit suicide (you went into the citadel of the royal palace and set the palace on fire around you) after just 7 days of being king. It just isn't fair.

WHO YOU KNOW: Jezebel. Her father-in-law, Omri, is to blame for your death.

WHO YOU HAVE MOTIVE TO MURDER: No one.

ON THE NIGHT IN QUESTION: Because you are considered a highly dangerous criminal, you were shackled and hooded so you could not see or hear when you were taken to and from the Island of Judgment. On the return trip some sort of commotion interrupted your pity party. You were manhandled off the boat and back into the holding area in the island. How dare these commoners treat you with so little respect?