

king Herod = emperor Otto III; ruler Philip (Herod's brother) = pope Bruno, religious Roman ruler, Otto's (Herod's) cousin; Herodias = (possibly) Stefania.

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John the Baptist	John Crescentius (10th c. A.D.)
1a. Name: John	1b. Name: John Crescentius

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The name parallel is obvious. It is interesting that in orthodox (in particular, Russian) tradition the name "John the Baptist" sounds as "John Crestitel". The name "Crestitel" is based on the word "cross".

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2a. Well-known prophet, struggling against king Herod and his family clan (Herod and Philip)	2b. John Crescentius hero of secular Rome, fighting against foreign power, and leading national party
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To 2b: Around 960 A.D., the National Roman Party was founded in Rome by John Crescentius, a "prominent Roman. ... For several years, John Crescentius was indeed the ruler of Rome ... as head of the National Party" ([44\*], V. 3, pp. 325–326). He was the most famous representative of the Crescentius family in Rome in medieval times. He was the "holy ruler of Rome, but not an independent sovereign" ([44\*], V. 3, pp. 326–327).

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3a. Leader of religious movement (before Christ)	3b. Overthrew pope John XV and led church power in Rome [44]
4a. Well-known monk. Prophesied "in the whole Jordan valley" (Mt 3:5)	4b. Allegedly took orders in 972 or 981 A.D. ( <i>ibid.</i> ). According to previous identifications, Italy may be "Jordan valley"
5a. King Herod was John's principal opponent	5b. Emperor Otto III was Crescentius' principal opponent
6a. King Herod was authentic figure. John the Baptist, demonstrating his religious independence, submitted himself to Herod's secular rule	6b. Emperor Otto III was crowned by Roman emperor in 996 A.D., which put end to Crescentius' rule as patrician ( <i>ibid.</i> )
7a. Originally neutral relationship between John the Baptist and Herod	7b. Originally neutral relationship between John Crescentius and Otto III ( <i>ibid.</i> )

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To 5b: In the absence of Otto III (983–1002) who was away from Rome, John Crescentius was the ruler of Rome in 985 A.D. He formally recognized the rule of the German throne (in the person of Otto III) ([44\*], V. 3, p. 328). Otto III was in Rome in the year 981. After the death of the empress Theophano in 991, John Crescentius "finally took control of the city in his own hands" ([44\*], V. 3, p. 342). Otto III attacked Rome in 996 and conquered it. The Romans were vanquished. Crescentius remained the leader of his party, but not the independent ruler.