

Matthew 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

Analysis

Joseph's immediate nighttime departure demonstrates urgent obedience to God's Word, prioritizing divine command over comfort and convenience. Egypt, once the place of Israel's bondage, now becomes refuge for the ultimate Deliverer—an ironic reversal showing God's redemptive purposes transforming former places of judgment. This flight also fulfills the pattern of Israel's history being recapitulated in Christ.

Historical Context

Egypt had a large Jewish community and was outside Herod's jurisdiction. The journey of approximately 75-100 miles could be completed in several days. Herod died in 4 BC, so the family's stay was relatively brief.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Joseph's immediate obedience despite inconvenience and danger model faithful response to God's Word?

2. In what ways does Christ recapitulate Israel's history, fulfilling what they failed to accomplish?

Interlinear Text

Ὁ	δὲ	ἐγερθεὶς	παρέλαβεν	τὸ	παιδίον	καὶ	τὴν
G3588	When	he arose	he took	G3588	the young child	and	G3588
	G1161	G1453	G3880		G3813	G2532	
μητέρα	αὐτοῦ	νυκτὸς	καὶ	ἀνεχώρησεν	εἰς	Αἴγυπτον	
mother	his	by night	and	departed	into	Egypt	
G3384	G846	G3571	G2532	G402	G1519	G125	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:21 (Parallel theme): For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

Matthew 1:24 (Parallel theme): Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: