

Matthew 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

Analysis

Jeremiah 31:15's full context includes God's promise: 'Refrain thy voice from weeping...there is hope in thine end' (Jeremiah 31:16-17). The weeping mothers of Bethlehem, like Rachel, represent genuine grief, yet God's purposes of redemption stand firm. Christ's preservation through this massacre demonstrates God's sovereign protection of His elect and His redemptive plan.

Historical Context

The quotation from Jeremiah shows Matthew's Jewish audience that even this tragedy fits within God's revealed plan. The original context concerned the Babylonian exile, but Matthew shows a pattern of God bringing restoration after judgment.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How can believers maintain hope in God's goodness during tragic and unjust circumstances?
2. What does God's preservation of Christ through Herod's massacre teach about His sovereign protection of His redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Φωνή | ἐν | Ῥαμᾶ | ἠκούσθη | θρῆνος | καὶ | κλαυθμὸς | καὶ |
| a voice | In | Rama | heard | lamentation | and | weeping | and |
| G5456 | G1722 | G4471 | G191 | G2355 | G2532 | G2805 | G2532 |
| ὄδυρμος | πολύς, | Ῥαχήλ | κλαίουσα | τὰ | τέκνα | αὐτῆς | καὶ |
| mourning | great | Rachel | weeping | G3588 | children | G846 | and |
| G3602 | G4183 | G4478 | G2799 | | G5043 | | G2532 |
| οὐκ | ἤθελεν | παρακληθῆναι | ὅτι | οὐκ | εἰσὶν | | |
| not | would | be comforted | because | not | they are | | |
| G3756 | G2309 | G3870 | G3754 | G3756 | G1526 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:15 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

Jeremiah 4:31 (Parallel theme): For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, and the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, that bewaileth herself, that spreadeth her hands, saying, Woe is me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers.