

# 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

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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

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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

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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Φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾶ ἡκούσθη θρῆνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ  
a voice In Rama heard lamentation and weeping and  
G5456 G1722 G4471 G191 G2355 G2532 G2805 G2532

όδυρμὸς πολύς, Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς καὶ  
mourning great Rachel weeping children and  
G3602 G4183 G4478 G2799 G3588 G5043 G846 G2532

οὐκ ἤθελεν παρακληθῆναι ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν  
not would be comforted because not they are  
G3756 G2309 G3870 G3754 G3756 G1526

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.