

Matthew 2:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Analysis

Joseph's fear of Archelaus demonstrates godly prudence that combines faith with wisdom. God's subsequent dream warning shows that trusting God doesn't mean ignoring legitimate dangers or abandoning discernment. The divine redirection to Galilee placed Jesus in the region where He would conduct most of His ministry, showing how God's providence works through human decisions informed by both reason and revelation.

Historical Context

Archelaus inherited Judea, Samaria, and Idumea when Herod died. He was so brutal that Rome deposed him in AD 6. His cruelty made Galilee, ruled by his brother Herod Antipas, a safer choice despite Antipas later executing John the Baptist.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage demonstrate that faith and prudence work together rather than oppose each other?
2. What role does godly wisdom play in making decisions while trusting God's sovereign providence?

Interlinear Text

ἀκούσας	δὲ	ὅτι	Ἀρχέλαος	βασιλεύει	ἐπὶ	τῆς	Ἰουδαίας
when he heard	But	that	Archelaus	did reign	in	G3588	Judaea
G191	G1161	G3754	G745	G936	G1909		G2449
ἀντὶ	Ἡρώδου	τοῦ	πατρὸς	αὐτοῦ	ἐφοβήθη	ἐκεῖ	
in the room	Herod	G3588	father	of his	he was afraid	thither	
G473	G2264		G3962	G846	G5399	G1563	
ἀπελθεῖν·	χρηματισθεὶς	δὲ	κατ'	ὄναρ	ἀνεχώρησεν	εἰς	
to go	being warned of God	But	in	a dream	he turned aside	into	
G565	G5537	G1161	G2596	G3677	G402	G1519	
τὰ	μέρη	τῆς	Γαλιλαίας				
G3588	the parts	G3588	of Galilee				
	G3313		G1056				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 2:39 (Parallel theme): And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

John 7:52 (Parallel theme): They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

Isaiah 30:21 (Parallel theme): And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Psalms 121:8 (Parallel theme): The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Psalms 73:24 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalms 48:14 (References God): For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

Matthew 2:19 (Parallel theme): But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Matthew 1:20 (Parallel theme): But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 3:13 (Parallel theme): Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

1 Samuel 16:2 (Parallel theme): And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.