

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 father of his he was afraid thither
G473 G2264 G3588 G3962 G6846 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
the parts of Galilee
G3588 G3588 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.