

Matthew 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Analysis

Herod's troubled reaction reveals the fundamental conflict between earthly kingdoms and God's kingdom. As a usurper with no legitimate claim to David's throne, Herod feared any rival. His trouble parallels the world's ongoing hostility to Christ's rule. That 'all Jerusalem' was troubled shows how even God's people can prefer corrupt stability over God's righteous King when self-interest is threatened.

Historical Context

Herod the Great was an Idumean (Edomite) appointed king of Judea by Rome in 40 BC. Known for architectural achievements but also paranoid cruelty, he murdered family members and infants to secure his throne. He died in 4 BC.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does the world feel threatened by Christ's legitimate reign and authority?
2. In what ways do we, like Jerusalem, sometimes prefer comfortable compromise over God's righteous rule?

Interlinear Text

Ακούσας δὲ Ἡρώδης ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐταράχθη
had heard When Herod G3588 the king these things he was troubled
G191 G1161 G2264 G935 G5015

καὶ πᾶσα Ἱεροσόλυμα μετ' αὐτοῦ
and all Jerusalem with him
G2532 G3956 G2414 G3326 G846

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 23:37 (References Jerusalem): O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

Matthew 8:29 (Parallel theme): And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Acts 4:2 (Parallel theme): Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.