

Matthew 2:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Analysis

Herod's cunning questioning reveals how earthly powers attempt to manipulate divine revelation for their purposes. His feigned worship masked murderous intent, demonstrating the depth of human depravity and self-deception. This illustrates how the unregenerate heart uses religious language to cloak evil motives, showing the doctrine of total depravity in action.

Historical Context

Herod's inquiry about timing would help him determine which infants to kill. His duplicity shows the political intrigue common in ancient courts and the lengths earthly rulers go to maintain power against God's purposes.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do people today use religious language to disguise ungodly motives?
2. What does Herod's deception reveal about the human heart's capacity for self-justifying evil?

Interlinear Text

Τότε Ἡρώδης λάθρᾳ καλέσας τοὺς μάγους
Then Herod when he had privily called G3588 the wise men
G5119 G2264 G2977 G2564 G3588 G3097

ἡκρίβωσεν παρ' αὐτῶν τὸν χρόνον τοῦ φαινομένου
diligently of them G3588 what time G3588 appeared
G198 G3844 G846 G5550 G5316

ἀστέρος
the star
G792

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 55:21 (Parallel theme): The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.

1 Samuel 18:21 (Parallel theme): And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.