

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	λάθρα	καλέσας	τοὺς	μάγους	
Then	Herod	when he had privily	called	G3588	the wise men	
G5119	G2264	G2977	G2564		G3097	
ἠκρίβωσεν	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.