

Matthew 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Analysis

Herod's request appears reasonable but conceals homicidal intent. This demonstrates that evil often masquerades as piety, requiring spiritual discernment to detect. The irony is profound: Herod asks to 'worship' the King he plans to murder, showing how religious profession without heart transformation is worthless. God would sovereignly protect Christ despite this scheme.

Historical Context

The magi's journey from the East likely took months. Herod's request seemed innocent—wanting to worship the newborn king—but revealed his paranoid tyranny when he later slaughtered Bethlehem's children (Matthew 2:16).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can we develop discernment to recognize false professions of faith and hidden evil?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereign protection of His elect despite human schemes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ πέμψας αὐτῷ εἰς Βηθλεέμ εἶπεν Πορευθέντες

And he sent him to Bethlehem and said Go

G2532 G3992 G846 G1519 G965 G2036 G4198

ἀκριβῶς ἐξετάσατε περὶ τοῦ παιδίου· ἐπὰν δὲ

diligently and search for the young child when and

G199 G1833 G4012 G3588 G3813 G1875 G1161

εὗρητε ἀπαγγείλατε μοι ὅπως κάγὼ ἔλθων

ye have found him bring me that also I may come

G2147 G518 G3427 G3704 G2504 G2064

προσκυνήσω αὐτῷ

and worship him

G4352 G846

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