

Matthew 3:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Analysis

The widespread response to John's ministry demonstrates God's sovereign work in preparing hearts for Christ. The geographic breadth—Jerusalem, Judea, Jordan region—shows the Spirit's powerful drawing despite John's unconventional appearance and harsh message. True spiritual awakening creates hunger for God's Word regardless of the messenger's status or the message's difficulty.

Historical Context

This response occurred around AD 27-29, after 400 years of prophetic silence. John appeared during religious formalism under Roman occupation, yet people traveled miles through difficult terrain to hear him—showing genuine spiritual hunger.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the widespread response to John's harsh message teach about authentic spiritual hunger versus mere entertainment-seeking?

2. How does God prepare hearts to receive the gospel before the messenger arrives?

Interlinear Text

Τότε ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ πᾶσα ἡ
Then went out to him Jerusalem and all G3588
G5119 G1607 G4314 G846 G2414 G2532 G3956
Ἰουδαία καὶ πᾶσα ἡ περίχωρος τοῦ Ἰορδάνου
Judaea and all the region round about Jordan G3588
G2449 G2532 G3956 G4066 G2446

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:5 (References Jerusalem): And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

John 3:23 (Parallel theme): And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.

John 5:35 (Parallel theme): He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

Luke 3:7 (Parallel theme): Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Luke 16:16 (Parallel theme): The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.