**God Governs (Matthew 2:13-23)**

 Be encouraged at the cusp of this new year, because it is God who governs your life. Today, as we get ready for 2020 and the decades of the 2020s, we desire to see all of us encouraged by the Word of the Lord. Very often our messages are directive or instructional. However, the Scriptures also contain encouraging messages for us. Those might not necessarily be written word for word and may require interpretation, but nonetheless, they are there for us. The Word of the Lord from Matthew comes to us today to encourage us, because God has never left us to fend for ourselves alone and He never will. We only need to heed him, to listen to him with our mind, heart and spirit. Therefore, come and let us be encouraged for the next few minutes by the governing power of God. Once again, I stress that God is the one who governs your life, and this is a big reason to rejoice at the crossover into the new year for each of us. Let us speak, then, about this important truth…

 God is the ruler of our life; this is why we can rejoice when we enter a new year. God’s care is amazing within the passage that we just read. From the beginning, He guides Joseph to Egypt. Herod becomes enraged and slaughters children – but then, after a time, he dies. It is only then that God guides Joseph to return back to the Holy Land. But Joseph didn’t just go anywhere, but he rather moved in step with the Lord’s directions which had come through dreams. What a joyful and amazing display of care by the Lord! He accompanied and protected Jesus Mary and Joseph step by step. God ruled over that situation.

 The Lord had also ruled over King Cyrus a significant number of centuries before that, guiding the king to cause the Jews to return to the Holy Land, to prepare for the eventual coming of His Son at the right time.

 Today is the last Sunday of 2019. God wants to encourage you, my dear brother and sister, to be hopeful. Just as God protected and kept safe Jesus in his most formative and helpless years, He also keeps and protects us in our critical and weaker seasons. Jesus had available to him the fullness of God’s power in the Holy Spirit for the mission He needed to accomplish, and we too, let us remember, have Him as well for this upcoming year for the great and good works we are to accomplish.

 God walked with Jesus and He, in turn, saved us from our sins and the power of death. But God is also with us, too! God will be with each of us in 2020 as well! Therefore, let us not welcome the new year with trepidation or worry. For just as God ordained Jesus’ life, He has ordered our life for the Good as well…

 Therefore, may each of us welcome this new year with hope, remembering that God is the governor of our life. Be encouraged at the cusp of this new year, because it is God who governs your life.

 May the Lord Bless you all and a Happy New Year to all. Amen.