

What Is A Diocese?

“Diocese” is an alteration of the Greek word διοικησις (dioikésis), literally “housekeeping” or “administration,” which was used as the name of an administrative district or province in the Roman Empire. It is derived from the verb διοικεω (dioikeó), “to keep house” or “to administer,” which appears in Greek translations of the Old Testament in 1 Kings 20:27. There it describes the provisions an army of Israel made before it successfully defeated the arrogant, numerically superior army of the Arameans under Ben-hadad. The mocking of the Lord as “a god of the mountains but not of the valleys” in 20:28 parallels the slander of historic Christian theology and worship as an idealistic dream world which has no practical benefits. In 20:29, God’s true power is vindicated through His people “on the seventh day.” According to the Wisdom of Solomon (15:1), God governs the entire universe as a diocese: “You, our God, are kind and true, patient, and administering all things in mercy.”