

Matthew 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

Analysis

Matthew sees Jeremiah 31:15's prophecy fulfilled in the massacre, using a 'fuller sense' (sensus plenior) hermeneutic. Rachel, buried near Bethlehem, represents motherly grief over Israel's children. This fulfillment connects Christ's advent to Israel's entire history of suffering under judgment, yet the broader context of Jeremiah 31 promises restoration and the New Covenant—ultimately fulfilled in Christ.

Historical Context

Jeremiah 31:15 originally referenced the Babylonian exile's grief, when Israelites were led past Rachel's tomb into captivity. Matthew shows this pattern repeating in Herod's massacre, with both events ultimately pointing to the consolation found in Christ and the New Covenant.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does this tragic event ultimately point to God's sovereign purposes of redemption?
2. What comfort does the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34) provide in the face of suffering and injustice?

Interlinear Text

Τότε ἐπληρώθη τοῦ ὁρθὸν ὑπὸ Ἰερεμίου τοῦ
Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy that which
G5119 G4137 G3588 G4483 G5259 G2408 G3588

προφήτου λέγοντος
the prophet saying
G4396 G3004

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