

# Matthew 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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Τότε	ἐπληρώθη	τοῦ	ῥηθέν	ὑπὸ	Ἰερεμίου	τοῦ
<b>Then</b>	<b>was fulfilled</b>	<b>that which</b>	<b>was spoken</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>Jeremy</b>	<b>that which</b>
G5119	G4137	G3588	G4483	G5259	G2408	G3588
προφήτου	λέγοντος					
<b>the prophet</b>	<b>saying</b>					
G4396	G3004					

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