

# Matthew 2:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

## Analysis

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The quotation from Micah 5:2 demonstrates God's sovereign decree specifying the exact location of Messiah's birth 700 years in advance. Bethlehem, though small and insignificant, was chosen by God to produce both King David and the greater David, Jesus Christ. This shows God's pattern of using the weak and despised things to accomplish His purposes (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

## Historical Context

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Bethlehem Ephrathah (distinguished from northern Bethlehem) was David's birthplace approximately 5 miles south of Jerusalem. Its name means 'house of bread,' fitting for Christ who is the Bread of Life. The prophecy was delivered around 700 BC.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's choice of insignificant Bethlehem demonstrate His values differ from worldly measures of importance?

2. What does the precision of fulfilled prophecy teach about the reliability of God's Word and promises?

## Interlinear Text

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οἱ	δὲ	εἶπον	αὐτῷ	Ἐν	Βηθλεὲμ	τῆς	Ἰουδαίας·	οὕτως
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>they said</b>	<b>unto him</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Bethlehem</b>	G3588	<b>of Judaea</b>	<b>thus</b>
G1161	G1161	G2036	G846	G1722	G965		G2449	G3779
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γὰρ	γέγραπται	διὰ	τοῦ	προφήτου·				
<b>for</b>	<b>it is written</b>	<b>by</b>	G3588	<b>the prophet</b>				
G1063	G1125	G1223		G4396				

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 7:42** (Parallel theme): Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

**Ruth 1:1** (Parallel theme): Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

**1 Samuel 16:1** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

**Ruth 2:4** (Parallel theme): And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.