

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

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

Additional Cross-References

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.