

Humble Beginnings

Matthew 2

- I. From Bethlehem **Matthew 2:1, 6; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:15**
 - a. Small Village
 - i. Too Little to be a clan of Judah
 - ii. Bethlehem had a long history. It was there that Jacob had buried Rachel and had set up a pillar of memory beside her grave (Genesis 48:7, 35:20). It was there that Ruth had lived when she married Boaz (Ruth 1:22), But above all, Bethlehem was the home and the city of David (1 Samuel 16:1, 17:12, 20:6); and it was for the water of the well of Bethlehem that David longed when he was a hunted fugitive upon the hills (2 Samuel 23:14–15).
 - b. Poor
 - i. Jesus' parents make the offering allotted for the poor—two doves—when presenting Him at the temple Matthew 2:24
 - ii. Stayed in the Manger
 - 1. The houses in Bethlehem are built on the slope of the limestone ridge; and it is very common for them to have a cave-like stable hollowed out in the limestone rock below the house itself; and very likely it was in such a cave-stable that Jesus was born.
 - c. Fulfilled
 - i. The town of Bethlehem remained a small village at the time, and recalls David's own humble origins. **1 Samuel 16.**
 - ii. **Davidic Line Matthew 1:6; Isaiah 11:1**
- II. From Egypt- **Matthew 2:13-15**
 - a. Angel of the Lord warned them of Danger
 - i. Told them to leave and go to Egypt
 - b. Egypt-
 - i. The quotation establishes an Israel typology: as a little later in adult life Jesus will be called upon to relive the wilderness temptations of Israel (4:1–11),
 - c. Fulfilled
 - i. **Hosea 11:1; Numbers 24:8** Jesus called out of Egypt
- III. From Nazareth- **Matthew 2:23**
 - a. Nazareth- Nazareth was a quite insignificant town in biblical times and is never mentioned in the OT. Projections from archaeological evidence suggest a maximum population of no more than 500
 - b. The second possibility, proposed at least as long ago as the days of Jerome (fourth century), is that "Nazarene" was a slang or idiomatic term for an individual from a very remote or obscure place (much like our contemporary

words *hick* or *backwoodsman*). This interpretation would fit well with the attitude toward Nazareth reflected in John 1:46

c. Fulfilled- Not a strong link to **Isaiah 52-53**

IV. To the Prince of Peace **Micah 5:4-5**