

**Matthew 2v1-23**  
**Great Prophecies Fulfilled**

<b>JERUSALEM</b>	<b>BETHLEHEM</b>	<b>EGYPT</b>	<b>RAMA</b>	<b>NAZARETH</b>
2v1 -2 Num. 24v17	2v6 -Micah 5v2	2v15 -Hos.11v1	2v18 -Jer.31v15	2v23 -Ps.2v6; Is 53v3

**Jerusalem:** the Magi might have linked Num 24 with the appearance of a literal star announcing the birth of the King of Kings. There is a record of the appearance of a comet or 'nova' in the sky before the death of Herod.

**Bethlehem:** 'to be ruler' Matt.2v4-6. He is a king or Governor. But the emphasis here is on the fact that he is a different kind of king i.e. he is to rule as a 'shepherd' as well. See v4 he stands and feeds – NIV 'shepherd'. Stands = he is alert and ready to respond or to act in feeding or providing for his people.

**Egypt:** see Ex. 4v22. Israel was first of all God's son. Christ was all that Israel was meant to be.

**Rama:** sections of the Old Testament were understood as wholes and particular verses or sentences were quoted from them rather as pointers to the whole context. With regard to this quotation the context must be borne in mind. The Babylonians had deported the best of the population of Jerusalem and it must have appeared at that time that God had deserted his people. Jeremiah pictured Rachel bewailing the fate of the exiles as they passed the tomb in Ramah on their way to a foreign land, but the Lord's reply to Jeremiah was "Keep your voice from weeping and your eyes from tears for your work shall be rewarded says the Lord, and they shall come again from the land of the enemy," (ch 31 v 16). In the sorrow of the Babylonian exile a new life emerged for a revived Israel. Similarly the sorrows of the mothers bereaved by the murder of their children by Herod was destined in the providence of God to result in great blessing.

**Nazareth:** Here we have not a quotation from any single Old Testament text but Jesus' experience of humiliation and rejection and his lowly origin thought of as predicted by different "prophets" (the plural is used here). This quotation has also been linked with the branch of Is. 11 v 1 said to foretell the lowly origin of the Christ in spite of His Davidic ancestry.

**The Bible is the Word of God.**

- Can depend upon it for eternity Titus 1v2
- Ought to take it seriously 1 Thess. 2v17
- Rely upon/claim its promises Is. 41v21; 1 Kings 8v46-51; Dan9v1f. Jer. 25v11-12.