

Sunday, January 2, 2022
Summary of Patterns of Fulfillment
Matthew 2:13-23
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Like a good architect, Matthew has structured his narrative of the life of Jesus in a certain way. He begins with Jesus' genealogy in 1:1-17 to show that Jesus comes from 'the right line at the right time and how it is just the right design.' That's the groundwork he puts in place. From there he sinks five anchors. Starting in 1:18 and ending in 2:23, Matthew gives us five fulfillments of what has been said through the prophets – 1:22, 23; 2:6, 15, 17, 18, and 23. The first two are what we know as precise fulfillments; the latter three are patterned fulfillments. By precise, I mean *This is That!* (see Isa. 7:14 and Matt. 1:18-25). Patterns of fulfillment, on the other hand, provide a bigger picture. As one writer noted, Matthew "is reading through the whole story of Israel and noticing, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, how *this* story is like *THIS* one."