Messiah Prophecy Locations

In the prophecies of the Old Testament, what places was the Messiah supposed to come from? Jesus was born in Bethlehem and Jesus also resided in Egypt and then came back up to Nazareth and the prophecies said that Jesus that the Messiah would come from specific places do the prophecies name, Bethlehem and Egypt in the Old Testament are there any others

Yes — the Old Testament actually gives **several geographic markers** for where the Messiah would come from or pass through. What is remarkable is that many of them appear **contradictory if read in isolation**, yet they all converge in the life of Jesus.

I'll walk through the primary locations the prophets named and the passages where they appear.

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1. Bethlehem — Birthplace of the Messiah

The clearest prophecy naming a specific town is **Bethlehem**.

Micah 5:2
"But thou, **Bethlehem Ephratah**, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah,
yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel;
whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

This prophecy was well known in the first century.

When the Magi asked where the Messiah would be born:

Matthew 2:5–6
"And they said unto him, **In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet**…"

So the religious leaders already understood **Micah was referring to the Messiah**.

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2. Egypt — The Son Called Out of Egypt

Another prophecy references **Egypt**, which seems strange until the events of Jesus' childhood.

Hosea 11:1
"When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and **called my son out of Egypt**."

Originally this speaks about **Israel coming out of Egypt in the Exodus**, but Matthew reveals it also functions **typologically of the Messiah**.

Matthew 2:14–15
"And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,
Out of Egypt have I called my son."

So the Messiah would **retrace the story of Israel itself**.

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3. Nazareth — "He Shall Be Called a Nazarene"

After Egypt, Jesus settles in **Nazareth**.

Matthew 2:23
"And he came and dwelt in a city called **Nazareth**, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, **He shall be called a Nazarene.**"

This one is interesting because **no single Old Testament verse says this exactly**.

Scholars believe Matthew is referencing a **word-play prophecy**.

The Hebrew word for **branch** is:

נֵצֶר (netzer)

Isaiah 11:1
"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a **Branch (netzer)** shall grow out of his roots."

Nazareth (נָצְרַת) appears to share the same root **N-Tz-R**.

So Matthew may be connecting:

Netzer (Branch) → Nazareth.

Meaning:
The Messiah, the **Branch of David**, would be associated with **Nazareth**.

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4. Galilee — The Light Appearing There

Another geographic prophecy places the Messiah's ministry in **Galilee**.

Isaiah 9:1–2
"The land of **Zebulun** and the land of **Naphtali**, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, **Galilee of the nations**;
The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light…"

Matthew explicitly applies this to Jesus beginning His ministry in Galilee.

Matthew 4:13–16

So the Messiah would be associated with **Galilee**, not just Judea.

This surprised people in the first century.

John 7:41–42
"Shall Christ come out of **Galilee**?
Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the **seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem**?"

They assumed it was contradictory.

But **both were true**.

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5. The Line of Jesse / David — Bethlehem's Family

Another "location" prophecy is actually genealogical.

Isaiah 11:1
"A rod out of the **stem of Jesse**."

Jesse lived in **Bethlehem**.

1 Samuel 16:1

So the Messiah would come from **David's house in Bethlehem**.

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6. Jerusalem — The King Arrives There

While not birthplace, prophecy says the Messiah would **enter Jerusalem as king**.

Zechariah 9:9
"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion… behold, thy **King cometh unto thee**…
lowly, and riding upon an ass."

Fulfilled in the triumphal entry.

Matthew 21:5

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7. Ramah — The Mourning at His Birth

A more subtle geographical prophecy appears during Herod's massacre.

Jeremiah 31:15
"A voice was heard in **Ramah**, lamentation… Rachel weeping for her children."

Matthew applies this to the slaughter of Bethlehem's infants.

Matthew 2:17–18

Ramah was near Bethlehem.

The Fascinating Part

Before Jesus lived, the prophecies looked **impossible to reconcile**.

The Messiah was expected to be associated with:

Prophecy	Location
Micah 5:2	Bethlehem
Hosea 11:1	Egypt
Isaiah 11:1	Branch / Nazareth
Isaiah 9:1–2	Galilee
Zechariah 9:9	Jerusalem

If someone had read these beforehand they might ask:

- Is the Messiah **from Bethlehem or Galilee?**

- Why would he be **connected to Egypt?**
- What does **Nazarene** mean?

Yet Jesus' life uniquely **threads all of them together**.

Birth → **Bethlehem**
Flight → **Egypt**
Childhood → **Nazareth**
Ministry → **Galilee**
Kingship → **Jerusalem**

A Deeper Pattern (That Connects to Your Tree-of-Life Observations)

Jesus' life mirrors **Israel's story**:

Israel	Jesus
Called out of Egypt	Called out of Egypt
Passed through water (Red Sea)	Baptized
40 years wilderness	40 days wilderness
Light to the nations	Light of the world

So the Messiah is not only **from these places** —
He **recapitulates the entire story of Israel**.

This ties into the pattern you were noticing in **John 6 and Revelation**:
Jesus is the **true Israel**, the **true vine**, the **true bread**, the **true tree of life**.

If you want, there is **one more extremely surprising prophecy about where the Messiah would come from** that most people miss:

It says the Messiah would come from **"the days of eternity"** — not merely from earth.

And it appears in the **same verse as Bethlehem**.

It creates a paradox that early rabbis struggled with.

If you want, I can show you that one next — it's one of the most astonishing lines in the prophets.