

## ~EPHRATHAH 2 (68)

(Eph'ra-thah) [Fruitfulness]

- Evidently the earlier name of **Bethlehem** or a name applied to the area around it. The names of **Bethlehem** and **Ephrathah** are used jointly in several texts. The account of Rachel's death relates that she was buried on the way to **Ephrath**, **Ephrathah**, that is to say, **Bethlehem**.
- Then they pulled away from Bethel. And while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to **Ephrath**, Rachel proceeded to give birth, and it was going hard with her in making the delivery. (**Genesis 35:16**)
- Thus Rachel died and was buried on the way to **Ephrath**, that is to say; **Bethlehem**. (**Genesis 35:19**)
- And as for me, when I was coming from Paddan, Rachel died alongside me in the land of Canaan on the way while there was yet a good stretch of land before coming to **Ephrath**, so that I buried her there on the way to **Ephrath**, that is to say; **Bethlehem**. (**Genesis 48:7**)
- Members of Elimelech's family are called **Ephrathites** from **Bethlehem**, and it was to **Bethlehem** that his widow Naomi returned out of Moab.
- And the man's name was Elimelech, and his wife's name Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, **Ephrathites** from Bethlehem in Judah. Eventually they came to the fields of Moab and continued there. (**Ruth 1:2**)
- And they both continued on their way until they came to Bethlehem. And it came about that as soon as they came to Bethlehem, all the city became stirred up over them, and the women kept saying; Is this Naomi? (**Ruth 1:19**)
- The blessing pronounced on Boaz at the time of his marriage to Ruth was that he might prove his worth in **Ephrathah** and make a notable name in Bethlehem.
- At this all the people that were in the gate and the older men

said; Witnesses! May Yehowah grant the wife who is coming into your house to be like Rachel and like Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel, and you prove your worth in **Ephrathah** and make a notable name in Bethlehem. (**Ruth 4:11**)

- And finally, in the prophecy concerning the Messiah's birth, the names are combined as **Bethlehem Ephrathah**.
- And you, O **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, the one too little to get to be among the thousands of Judah, from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel, whose origin is from early times, from the days of time indefinite. (**Micah 5:2**)

**See Also BETHLEHEM 1**