

Did Any Prophets Come Out of Galilee?

Question: In John 7:52, the Pharisees told Nicodemus, “Search and see that no prophet arises out of Galilee.” Were they correct that no prophet ever came out of Galilee?

Answer: It’s incredible that these supposed experts did not know that five prophets came out of Galilee—Jonah, Nahum, Hosea, Elijah, and Elisha. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, which is in Galilee. He was called Jesus of Nazareth, so the Pharisees assumed that He was born in Galilee.

The Pharisees were adamant that no prophet ever came out of Galilee because they thought it was proof that Jesus was not a prophet and could not be the Messiah. They knew the Scriptures prophesied the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (John 7:42, Micah 5:2). So the Pharisees were wrong on two points—that no prophet had come from Galilee and that Jesus could not be the Messiah. For whatever reason, Jesus never stated during His public ministry that He was born in Bethlehem.