



A Virgin Birth | Isaiah 7:1-17

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Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.

– Isaiah 7:14

NOTES

Introduction

Christmas is Coming

The Near Fulfillment of the Sign

God gives a Sign

1. Why a sign was needed: An Impending War

- a. Aram's King Rezin and Israel's King Pekah son of Remaliah went to fight against Jerusalem, but they were not able to conquer it.
- b. Ahaz and the people of Jerusalem and Judah were terrified of falling to the Aram-Israel alliance.

2. God sent his message through Isaiah.

- a. Go out with your son Shear-jashub, to meet Ahaz (a remnant shall return)
- b. The message:
 - i. Calm Down!
 - ii. They are nothing compared to my power.
 1. Two smoldering sticks taken out of the fire.
 - a. Writing with the smoke or the charred end.

The Lord Laughs at Warring Nations Psalm 2:1-4 CSB

- 1 Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
- 2 The kings of the earth take their stand,
and the rulers conspire together
against the LORD and his Anointed One;
- 3 "Let's tear off their chains
and throw their ropes off of us."



4 The one enthroned in heaven laughs;
the Lord ridicules them.

- iii. Their plan will not come to be.
- iv. Stand firm in your faith or you will fall.
 - 1. A great memory verse or motivation verse:
 - a. “If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all.” Isaiah 7:9b

3. God gives a sign as assurance of God’s promise to protect and deliver Jerusalem.

- a. God tells Ahaz to ask for a sign
 - i. “Ask for a sign from the LORD your God—it can be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.”
- b. But Ahaz replied, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”
- c. Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God?”
- d. Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign:
 - i. Ever had someone say, “nevermind, I will do it myself?”
- e. Parts to the Sign:
 - i. The conception of a child
 - 1. Virgin = “A young maiden”?

The Hebrew word translated virgin means “young woman of marriageable age” and often has the implication of virginity.

- 2. Name him Immanuel
 - ii. Before the age of 12
 - iii. Curds and Honey

The significance of eating curds and honey is that the devastation of the land’s agriculture (vv. 23–24) will be such that other foods will not be available.

- iv. Defeat of Aram and Ephraim

The northern kingdom was totally defeated in 722 BC, about thirteen years after the Immanuel prophecy.

- v. Fall of Jerusalem to Assyria



Though temporary deliverance (Is 7:16; 8:4) was to be given then, and final deliverance through Messiah, sore punishment shall follow the former. After subduing Syria and Israel, the Assyrians shall encounter Egypt (2 Ki 23:29), and Judah shall be the battlefield of both (Is 7:18), and be made tributary to that very Assyria (2 Ch 28:20; 2 Ki 16:7, 8) now about to be called in as an ally (Is 39:1-6).

The Ultimate Fulfillment of the Sign

Jesus is the Messiah

1. The world faces an impending judgment.

- a. Corresponds to the judgment facing Judah through the invasion, siege, defeat, exile at the hands of Arma/Ephraim, Assyria
 - i. Same cause: sinful rebellion against the Holy God
 - ii. Powerless to affect the outcome
 - iii. Alliance with forces of help will fail

2. God promised a Messiah (Christ in Greek)

- a. The sign of promised deliverance in Isaiah 7 has an ultimate fulfillment in Jesus.
 - i. Matthew 1:18-23

18 The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit.

19 So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

20 But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 See, the virgin will become pregnant

and give birth to a son,

and they will name him Immanuel,

which is translated "God is with us." Matthew 1:18-23 (CSB)



1. The Virgin Birth is a key part of Messiology (the theology of Jesus the Messiah)
 - a. the gospel writers clearly believed that Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived

Kevin DeYoung - The Gospels do not present the virgin birth as some prehistoric myth or pagan copy-cat, but as “an orderly account” of actual history from eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-4). If the virgin birth is false, the historical reliability of the gospels is seriously undermined.

- b. Fulfills Isaiah 7
- c. this miraculous conception (1:34, 37) is associated with the application of the title Son of God to Jesus (1:32, 35).
- d. it is the work of the Spirit (Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35), who, after all, created life out of nothingness at the genesis (the word translated “birth” by the NRSV in Matt. 1:18) of the world (Gen. 1:1)
- e. God’s plan to mark Jesus as unique in this manner. A child being born to a virgin is a miracle that is in line with, but also greater than, miracles of the past in which children were born to women who were infertile or past the age of childbearing (Gen. 21:2; 30:22–24; 1 Sam. 1:19–20).
- f. The virgin birth is essential to Christianity because it has been essential to Christianity.

J. Gresham Machen concluded that “there can be no doubt that at the close of the second century the virgin birth of Christ was regarded as an absolutely essential part of the Christian belief by the Christian church in all parts of the known world.”

- g. The virgin birth demonstrates that Jesus is truly human and truly divine. This is the point

The Heidelberg Catechism - Question 35, “How does the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit you?” The answer: “He is our mediator, and with his innocence and perfect holiness he removes from God’s sight my sin—mine since I was conceived.”



- h. The virgin birth is essential because it means Jesus did not inherit the curse of depravity that clings to Adam's race. Jesus was made like us in every way except for sin (Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27). Every human father begets a son or daughter with his sin nature. This is the way of the world after the fall.
 - ii. Gives hope
 - iii. Points to destruction for those who do not believe.

the Son of Man must be lifted up, 15 so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 16 For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God. John 3:14-18 CSB

- 3. Unbelief: As fallen humans, we are prone to disbelieve the promises of the Lord, often needing a powerful sign to break through our hard hearts.
 - a. Unbelief that we need a Savior
 - b. Unbelief that Jesus is the Messiah
 - c. Unbelief that he was born through a miraculous virgin birth
 - d. Unbelief that Jesus fully paid for our sins on the cross
 - e. Unbelief that Jesus died and rose again to life
 - f. Unbelief that Jesus brings eternal life to those who believe (only)
 - g. Unbelief that salvation is for you as a free gift by grace through faith
 - h. Unbelief that Jesus is coming again

Are you like Aahaz, holding onto unbelief? Thinking that God's rescue of you from the coming judgment is unneeded or not coming?

Are you trusting in another source of salvation or deliverance from the war against your sinful rebellion?

Today is the day to repent of that unbelief and surrender to Jesus!

If you believe in the One Messiah, Jesus the Christ, rejoice in that promised salvation!
Join God in the victorious battle against your sin and the sin of the world!



Now What

1. Let the power of God reign larger in your heart than the fear of the battle.
2. Look to the Savior born of a virgin to be your Redeemer.
3. Stand firm in faith (or you will not stand).
4. Who in your life needs to hear about the hope of deliverance in Jesus?
5. Who needs to hear encouragement to stand strong in faith?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for God to reveal the areas of unbelief in your heart.
2. Pray for those who do not know the assurance of the promise of deliverance through Jesus.
3. Pray for our church that we will call people to see their need for the Messiah to deliver them from the coming judgment.

Discussion Questions

1. Why would Ahaz disbelieve the promised rescue from God?
2. Why do we disbelieve God's promises of deliverance? What other sources of rescue do we try to turn to?
3. What are some reasons that people disbelieve the virgin birth of Jesus?
4. Why is the virgin birth of Jesus an important part of theology?
5. In what ways can you more fully live the hope of Jesus?



Scripture Reading

10 Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz: 11 “Ask for a sign from the Lord your God—it can be as deep as Sheol or as high as heaven.”

12 But Ahaz replied, “I will not ask. I will not test the Lord.”

13 Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God? 14 Therefore, the Lord himself will give you^[c] a sign: See, the virgin will conceive,^[d] have a son, and name him Immanuel.^[e] 15 By the time he learns to reject what is bad and choose what is good, he will be eating curds^[f] and honey. 16 For before the boy knows to reject what is bad and choose what is good, the land of the two kings you dread will be abandoned. 17 The Lord will bring on you, your people, and your father’s house such a time as has never been since Ephraim separated from Judah: He will bring the king of Assyria.”

Isaiah 7:10-17 (CSB)