

“Born of a Virgin”*Christmas Foretold: Ancient Prophecies of the Messiah’s Coming*

Matthew 1:18-23, Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 1:20-23 – “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ ²²Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³‘BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,’ which translated means, ‘GOD WITH US.’”

Intro: So let me ask you...what are the odds of a virgin birth? There are none.

1. A Promised Savior

Luke 19:10 – “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Mark 2:17 – “Jesus said to them, ‘It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.’”

John 1:29b – “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

1 Timothy 1:15 – “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.

Max Lucado said...

- “If our biggest need was knowledge, God would have sent an educator.
- “If our biggest need was technology, God would have sent a scientist.
- “If our biggest need was money, God would have sent an economist.
- “Since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent Jesus, a Savior, to provide it.

2. A Predicted Son

Isaiah 7:10-14 – “Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ‘¹¹Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ ¹²But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!’ ¹³Then he said, ‘Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.’”

A few of the controversies surrounding the ‘virgin birth’...

A. The controversy about the ‘parthenogenesis explanation’

Genesis 3:15 – “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Matthew 1:20 – “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.’”

B. The controversy about ‘the meaning of Isaiah 7:14’

- He will be known as Immanuel... “God with us”.
- So modern Jewish scholars deny the virgin birth.

C. The controversy that this Son will be called “God with us”

- Jewish scholars translating the OT from Hebrew to Greek...
- When they came to (Isaiah 7:14) “a virgin shall conceive” translated it ‘parthenos’.
- Which in the Greek can only refer to a ‘virgin girl’.

3. A Provided Solution

Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 – “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

A. The controversy of ‘the sovereignty problem’

Jeremiah 22:30 – “Thus says the LORD, ‘Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah.’”

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Joseph’s initial plan to divorce Mary quietly reveal his righteous character?
2. How can we, like Joseph, choose obedience and trust in God’s plan when facing unexpected challenges or ‘messy’ situations in our own lives?
3. What does the virgin birth signify about Jesus’ divine nature and mission as Savior?
4. How does understanding Jesus as “God with us” change how we face difficult times?
5. How does the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 in Jesus strengthen your confidence in the accuracy of the Bible?
6. What does this passage teach us about God’s ability to work through existing structures and traditions for His redemptive purposes?