



## 2 | ISAIAH 7:1-14

### THE VIRGIN'S SON

*The greatest sign of victory is the birth of Jesus, our Immanuel*

#### Outline

1. **THE EARTHLY SITUATION (7:1-9)**

2. **THE HEAVENLY SIGN (7:10-12)**

Ahaz's Unbelief

Your Faith Commitment

3. **THE DIVINE SAVIOR (7:13-14)**

Jesus Had A Miraculous Conception

*Jesus' is Conceived Amidst Scandal*

*Jesus is Conceived by the Holy Spirit*

*Jesus is Conceived without Sin*

*Jesus is Born to Die*

Jesus Had A Majestic Character

*Jesus' Nature is Both God and Man*

*Jesus' Birth is Both Human and Divine*

Jesus Wants A Meaningful Communion

#### Songs

What Child Is This

Fullness of Time

The First Noel

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Hark the Herald Angel Sing!

#### Call to Worship, Isaiah 9:6-7

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.*

## Announcements

1. **Welcome Visitors**
2. **COMBINED SERVICE:** Today we have a combined English and Spanish service.
3. **MEN'S BASKETBALL:** Men's Basketball league is on hold till the new year.
4. **SMALL GROUPS:** Please enjoy a Christmas fellowship with your small groups this Wednesday at 7pm. There is one today at 12:45 pm for the Small Group that meets at the church.
5. **CHRISTMAS AT LEXINGTON:** Please consider joining us for our annual Christmas Program at Lexington Nursing Home this Saturday on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. We will also be distributing the Teddy Bears we collected to the residents. Come on out and be a blessing to the elderly!
6. **PASTORS AWAY PREACHING:** Please pray for Pastor Mike Tiberi as he is away filling in at a nearby church. Also, Pray for Pastor Jose as he preaches in Peru. Pray God will give them both power as they preach.
7. **CHRISTMAS PLAY:** Mark your calendars for our annual youth & children's Christmas Play on Sunday, December 15 at 5pm. We will also have a cookie fellowship afterwards, so please bring a batch of your favorite cookies to share.
8. **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Please mark your calendars for a special Christmas Eve service (Dec 24) at 7pm. You won't want to miss this time of worship and adoration of the Savior.

### *Introduction*

Our message today is from Isaiah on page 571 of your pew Bible. The title of our message today is "The Virgin's Son".

**Especially at Christmastime, we think about the mother of the Lord Jesus, Mary.** She was willing to become the mother of the Savior. You can just imagine Mary trying to explain her miraculous pregnancy. "Oh yes, the angel Gabriel told me..." "No, Joseph and I have never had relations..." "No really, the Lord told me my baby is the Messiah."

**And the reactions: "Yeah, right. Tell us another one."** "Great story, Mary. Now, can you tell us the *truth*?" "You saw an angel? Hmm... can you describe him to us?" "God chose *you* to be the Messiah's mother?" "Right..."

The rumors and scandal must have flooded her family: "Mary is a sinner. She is pregnant, and it's not Joseph's child!"

**But, God helped Mary and protected her.** He confirmed to her time after time what she must have sometimes doubted:

**Joseph** got the message of Jesus' divinity also, straight from an angel of God (Mt 1:20-24).

Mary's situation began more than 700 years before she was born, when a prophet named Isaiah gave a promise to King Ahaz.

---

## 1. THE EARTHLY SITUATION (7:1-9)

---

Now Ahaz, a very double minded king of Judah, is frightened. Syria has backed northern Israel to have a civil war with the southern kingdom of Judah. God offers Ahaz a sign so that he will trust in the Lord and not in the big-guns nation of Assyria.

**7:1-14** | In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it.<sup>2</sup> When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.<sup>3</sup> And the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field.<sup>4</sup> And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah.<sup>5</sup> Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying,<sup>6</sup> "Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it,"<sup>7</sup> thus says the Lord God:

"It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass.<sup>8</sup> For the head of Syria is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is Rezin. And within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.<sup>9</sup> And the head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all."

So there is a call to King Ahaz to be firm in his faith. In verse 10, God says, "Ask a sign..." He could ask any sign in heaven or earth. Ahaz doesn't want a sign, so God says, I'm not going to merely give you a sign, I'm going to give "the sign" of all signs: the virgin birth of Messiah.

In 732B.C., instead of accepting the sign of the Lord, he went to Assyria and offered pagan sacrifices on their altar. Then he came back and brought pagan altars of Baal into the Temple court and offered his sons as human sacrifices to "pass through the fire". Now remember, this is a very young king of 20 years old. He thinks he's doing everyone a favor. He's trying to be the savior of his nation. But God says: there is another Savior.

God tells Ahaz to calm down in verse 4. "Ahaz don't you realize who you're dealing with? The kings of northern Israel and Syria are strong, but I rule the world. Syria and Israel are just smoldering stumps of firebrands. There's smoke, but no fire! In 65 short years, they will be rubble! In fact, in ten years, Assyria will make it's first decimation of Northern Israel.

Ahaz heard these nations pledge to conquer Jerusalem. God says, "Now I will tell you what will happen if you trust in me: Nothing! They are no threat to you! They will never

attack! Stop living by sight and start believing that if I am for you, no one can be against you. Trust me!" Ahaz doesn't want to trust God.

---

## 2. THE HEAVENLY SIGN (7:10-12)

---

God invites Ahaz to ask for a sign, any sign he can think of, as evidence that God is serious about being his ally in this civil war. God can do anything if we just trust in him.

**7:10-12** | Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be as deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."

God hands him a blank check, but Ahaz refuses to cash it. Why? He doesn't *want* to trust God. <sup>1</sup> He acts pious, but it's a covering for his unbelief.

### AHAZ'S UNBELIEF

For all intents and purposes, this was a salvation invitation to King Ahaz. But instead of following the Lord, it is recorded in the history books that in 732BC, the first year Ahaz is king, when he is a mere 20 years old, he decides to go to Assyria for help. He offers sacrifices on pagan altars there. And then he comes back to Jerusalem and offers his son to Baal in the fire as a human sacrifice.

### YOUR FAITH COMMITMENT

We are all shocked by what Ahaz did without faith in the Lord. But the truth is, where would you be without the Lord? If you are without Christ today, he has an invitation to you:

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mt 11:28-30).

You can try to live life every way without Christ, but it leads to meaninglessness and misery. Christ is the one that can carry your burden and bring true and lasting meaning and joy to your life. That's what Christmas is all about!

---

## 3. THE DIVINE SAVIOR (7:13-14)

---

**7:13-14** | And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

---

<sup>1</sup> Raymond C. Ortlund Jr. and R. Kent Hughes, *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005), 90.

God says through Isaiah: Since you won't believe me, I'm going to give you a sign that points to a greater sign. There will be a child born to Isaiah (as we see in Isaiah 8) who, while he is still just a boy, Syria and northern Israel will be brought to rubble. That's exactly what happened in 722BC. But this was not the ultimate sign. This is a black and white picture of the ultimate sign because Isaiah and the NT Gospel of Matthew tells us what the ultimate sign is: the virgin will conceive and bear a son, and his name will be called: Immanuel, God with us.

Isaiah's son was not Immanuel. That was a flat Old Testament, black and white picture, but Matthew says, the ultimate fulfillment is in God's Son, not Isaiah's son. The real 3-D person is Jesus.

Aren't you glad for God's Son? He is the only human in the history of the world who was born from a virgin. There was a miraculous conception.

### **JESUS HAD A MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION**

Seven hundred years after Isaiah spoke these words, a teenage girl who was betrothed to marry a man named Joseph had a visit from an angel, who told her that she was to be the human vehicle through whom the Messiah of God would come.

#### *Jesus' is Conceived Amidst Scandal*

And then after Mary, Joseph had a dream to confirm it. But it was so scandalous. Listen to Matthew 1.

**MATTHEW 1:18-19** | Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

The virgin birth of Jesus reveals that Jesus is the true Savior of the world. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. The narrative of Matthew confirms the prophecy of Isaiah 7.

Since a virgin birth has never happened, no one understood unless they God a visit from an angel! For Jesus to be born from a virgin was a **human scandal**. Joseph was ready to **divorce** her quietly. It was a travesty and a scandal. The Mosaic law called for her to be stoned or to be divorced. In Joseph's limited understanding, this pregnancy was a complete scandal. Mary was his beloved! He was essentially engaged to be married. This is to be a time of joy and celebration. Instead. It seemed God wanted the worst for Joseph.

In the virgin birth, God's great plan is on display. But there are risks. God didn't consult with Mary about those risks. He chose her. The angel didn't ask Mary about her willingness. He announced, "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus" (Lk 1:31). God didn't ask Mary for permission. He acted—gently but decisively—to save his people from their sins (Mt 1:21).

Both Joseph and Mary got visits from angels, but don't be misunderstand, this was scandalous for Joseph and Mary. Joseph was betrothed to Mary. When you were betrothed, it was the equivalent of marriage, and it usually lasted for a year. If you were

to break off a betrothal it was equivalent of divorce. Before they entered into the physical consummation, Mary was found to be with child.

Mary's pregnant, but she's never had relations with a man. She's never felt a man's embrace. She is completely morally pure in every way, but she is pregnant. Angels reassure Mary and Joseph. That which is in Mary's womb is by the Holy Spirit. Oh the scandal! The talk!

### *Jesus is Conceived by the Holy Spirit*

**MATTHEW 1:18b** | ... When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

What is the significance of the virgin birth? To begin with, it highlights the **supernatural**. His life has **supernatural bookends**. On one end of Jesus' life lies his supernatural conception and birth; on the other, his supernatural resurrection and his ascension to God's right hand. Jesus' authenticity was attested to by the supernatural working of his Father in both his **conception** and **resurrection**.

Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit. He's God. Before he came into this world, he was ruling and reigning over the universe. Imagine being there for the creation of the world! What majesty! And so the Holy Spirit hovers over Mary's womb, and God becomes incarnate! The one who created all things became flesh.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made... <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth (Jn 1:1-3, 14).

He came into this world without an earthly father. Joseph was a step-father. Our Lord was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His mother had not been touched by a man. She was a virgin.

No one here this morning can comprehend the virgin birth. It would be like me telling you, if you ask how I got to church today, and I told you, "I levitated 1000 feet in the air, and I flew here". You see, it had never been heard before or since that a woman would conceive a child without a man. By putting this on the first page of the New Testament, Matthew is saying that Jesus is divine: he even says it clearly... He's God, God with us!

Listen to the prophet Isaiah: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa 7:14).

### *Jesus is Conceived without Sin*

The virgin birth is also important because it confirms the sinless nature of Christ. Jesus has a birth like no other, as only God could enter the world, untainted by human depravity and sin.

**MATTHEW 1:23a** | ... the virgin shall conceive and bear a son...

Jesus was born sinless. He is not tainted with the sin of Adam. He's the Seed of the woman, He's not a son of Adam, he's an equal with Adam. He is the "last Adam" (1 Cor 14:45). Adam brought sin into the world, but Jesus is ushering sin out of the world.

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Cor 15:22).

Peter says he was sinless.

Who [Jesus] committed no sin, nor was guile found in his mouth (1 Pet 2:22).

John testified:

And you know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin (1 John 3:5).

### *Jesus is Born to Die*

MATTHEW 1:21 | She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Another reason why the virgin birth is crucial to the Christian faith concerns our salvation. The virgin birth shows that humanity needs redeeming that it can't bring about for itself. The fact that the human race couldn't produce its own redeemer implies that its sin and guilt are profound and that our Savior must come from outside. Christ, as our sinless sacrifice, was the only one who could redeem us. Hallelujah!

But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Gal 4:4-5).

### **JESUS HAD A MAJESTIC CHARACTER**

MATTHEW 1:23 | "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

A virgin conceived and gave birth to a son? Which son? The one called Immanuel, God with us! Mary's pregnancy is a mystery to all! Who here can comprehend the incarnation? J.I. Packer said this:

"It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of Christian revelation lie. 'The Word became flesh' (Jn 1:14); God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation" (J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 53).

*Jesus: is fully God and fully man.*

The Messiah was born in a manger. The King was laid in a cradle. The Savior was found in a stable. The infinite became an infant. And all of that was promised and predicted and prophesied 700 years before Mary and Joseph found no room in the inn.

Jesus wasn't just a good man. He wasn't even a godly man. He was the God-man. That cradle 2000 years ago held the Creator. He was God in the flesh.

He was the earthly child of a heavenly Father, and a heavenly child of an earthly mother. He was not half and half. He was all God, and all man. He was not man with a God-like character, nor was he God with man-like qualities. He was the God-man.

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

We sing about the God who became flesh!

Christ by highest Heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel

St. Augustine tried to describe what happened in the incarnation. He said:

The Maker of man became man that He as the bread of life might be hungry, that He the fountain of life might thirst, that He the Maker light might sleep in darkness, that He the way might be wearied in the journey, that He the truth might be accused by false witnesses, that He the judge of the living and the dead might be brought to trial by a mortal judge, that He who is justice might be condemned by the unjust, that He righteousness personified might be scourged with a whip, that He the Sustainer of all things might be suspended on a cross, that He omnipotence incarnate might be weak, and He, the Almighty, might be wounded, and He who is life itself might die. -Augustine

What Majestic character! He is fully God and fully man! God chose to mark the coming of his eternal Son, his anointed King of kings, with this extraordinary birth. Jesus is the God-man. He has a human nature and a divine nature, but they are undivided. Think about it.

- As God he is worshipped by the magi, by angels and shepherds.

- Yet at his birth King Herod wants to kill him.
- As a tired human being, Jesus sleeps in a boat in a storm (Mt 8:23-27)
  - But as God, he walks on water and calms the sea!
- As a human, Jesus thirsted.
  - This is the same person who made the oceans.
- As a man, Jesus is crucified.
  - As God, he rises again.

What a divine Savior!

### **JESUS WANTS A MEANINGFUL COMMUNION**

What is Jesus called? What is his name? “Immanuel, God with us”. What a name! It speaks of his mission.

**MATTHEW 1:23** | “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

His name is Immanuel! God becomes a man; he is with us!

This is what Christmas is all about. All the loneliness, all the anger, all the depression and sadness leads us to Christ. He came to die in order to bring us to God. Jesus said,

“I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through me” (Jn 14:6).

### **Conclusion**

Christmas can be a very lonely time. You might be amidst a crowd of people and still be lonely. As Christians, we know that our ultimate happiness cannot be obtained through a friend or a spouse or another human being. Sinners cannot fulfill such expectations.

But there is someone who can fill your heart this Christmas: the God-man. This one who was born of the Virgin Mary to be with you. Christ who was born of Mary came to be born in you. His name is Immanuel: God with us.