

## **THE BIRTH OF IMMANUEL**

### **Isaiah 7:1-17**

#### **Introduction:**

- 1. In the 8th century before Christ, Assyria and Egypt struggled for supremacy.**
- 2. Israel, Judah and Syria were caught between the 2 superpowers.**
  - a. Pekah, king of Israel, and Rezin, king of Syria, formed an alliance to oppose Assyria.**
  - b. They attempted to force Ahaz, king of Judah, to join them.**
- 3. Ahaz had already made an alliance with Assyria and trusted in it to save him and his people.**
- 4. Pekah and Rezin united to make war against Judah.**
  - a. Their aim was to destroy Ahaz and the house of David.**
  - b. They planned to put the son of Tabeel on David's throne.**
  - c. The king and people of Judah trembled in fear.**

**“His heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind.”**
- 5. God sent Isaiah to reassure Ahaz that Judah was safe.**
  - a. He told Isaiah to take his young son, Shearjashub (“a remnant shall return”), with him.**
  - b. The king was shoring up Jerusalem's water supply to prepare for the expected attack on Jerusalem.**
- 6. God assured Ahaz: “Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear nor be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands....”**
  - a. These nations and their kings were nearly burnt out.**
  - b. Their kings would not rule over any territory but their own.**

- c. In 65 years, Israel would be finished as a nation.
7. To further reassure Ahaz, God told him to ask for a sign.
- a. He could ask it in heaven above or on the earth beneath.
  - b. Ahaz did not trust in God, but in his alliance with Assyria.
  - c. He refused saying: “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!”
8. Isaiah asked: “Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also?”
- a. Isaiah does not call God “your God’ but “my God” for Ahaz had shown his trust was not in the Lord.
  - b. God would give him a sign anyway that the wicked scheme of Judah’s neighbors would not come to pass.
- “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name ‘Immanuel’” (v. 14).
- c. The house of David, of which Ahaz was the representative, would continue until Immanuel was born of the virgin.

**Discussion:**

- I. THERE ARE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS OF CHRISTIANITY.
  - A. The virgin birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38).
  - B. The shedding of Jesus’ blood for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7).
  - C. The bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead (Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4).
  - D. The second coming coming of Christ to raise the dead and judge the world (John 5:28,29; 1 Timothy 4:1).

1. If any one of these is removed, Christianity will fall!
2. Unbelievers, skeptics and modernists deny Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.
3. Early heretics such as the Ebionites and the Gnostics denied Jesus was born of a virgin.
4. Modern theologians deny the virgin birth of our Lord.
5. The Revised Standard, New English and Good News Versions deny the virgin birth by translating “almah” (virgin) as “young woman” in Isaiah 7:14.

**II. IN MATTHEW 1:18-25, THE HOLY SPIRIT DECLARED THAT ISAIAH 7:14 IS A PROPHECY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH.**

**A. The angel of the Lord announced Jesus’ birth to Joseph.**

1. Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married.  
  
“Before they came together, she was found with Child of the Holy Spirit.”
2. Joseph was planning to put her away privately.
3. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

**B. The angel’s message made it clear that Mary was a virgin.**

“That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

“She will bring forth a Son and you shall call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins.”

**C. Isaiah 7:14 was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ.**

1. Matthew was inspired by the Spirit as Isaiah was.
2. Matthew uses the Greek *parthenos* which can only mean *virgin* to translate the Hebrew *almah*.
3. Matthew tells us *Immanuel* means “*God is with us!*”

**III. IN LUKE 1:26-38, THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN.**

**A. The passage leaves no doubt that Mary is a virgin.**

- 1. She is “a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph.”**
- 2. “The virgin’s name was Mary.”**
- 3. When told she would be the mother of the Christ, Mary asked: “How can this be since I do not know a man?”**

**B. The angel left no doubt that Jesus would be miraculously conceived.**

**“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also that Holy One Who is to be born will be called the Son of God” (v. 35).**

**Conclusion:**

**1. If Jesus was not born of a virgin, the following would be true:**

- a. The Bible is not inspired for it teaches Christ was born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-15; Luke 1:26-38).**
- b. Jesus is not the Son of God, but an ordinary human like the rest of us (John 1:1-3,14,18; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9).**
- c. If He is an ordinary man, He died as a martyr, not as our sin offering (Hebrews 10:5-7).**
- d. If He is an ordinary man, He cannot be our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14; 7:13,14).**
- e. If He is an ordinary man, He cannot be the Mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).**

**2. We cannot compromise on any of the fundamentals of the faith without giving up the faith, and our hope based on it (Jude 3).**

**3. Accept Jesus as both Lord and Christ today (Acts 2:36-38).**

