
reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God."³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Matt. 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

A sign shows the significance

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The Inconvenient Birth

An Inconvenient Christmas—part 4

Isaiah 7

December 24, 2023

Historical context

Isaiah 7:2 Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

Isaiah 7:3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field.

Isaiah 7:4 Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart ...

Proverbs 3:25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
²⁶ for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

- Proud control or humble surrender and trust?

Isaiah 7:4 Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—...

... because of the fierce anger of Rezin (Syria) and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have **plotted your ruin**, saying, ⁶ "Let us invade Judah; **let us tear it apart** and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it."

Isaiah 7:7 **Yet** this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "It will not take place, it will not happen, ⁸ for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people. ⁹ The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."

- **God's gives an amazing sign to a rebellious king**

Isaiah 7:10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

Isaiah 7:12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

Isaiah 7:13 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?"

The virgin will give birth to a son. She will name him Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Is. 7:15 He (the child) will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.

Isaiah 7:16 But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Isaiah 7:17 The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah--he will bring the king of Assyria."

What Ahaz desired, that would he receive.

Mary is to give birth to a son, a savior!

Luke 1:26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The **virgin's** name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

Luke 1:31 **You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.** ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will
