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The Virgin Prophecy: God with Us

Matthew 1:18-25

The fulfillment would be obvious – the s _____

- The first word of verse 23 is b _____ or look in all translations except the NIV which failed to translate this important word
 1. This is a quote from Isaiah 7:14 which tells us that the Lord gave a s _____.
 - a. Lk 2:12 – an angel gave the shepherd a sign that would identify the Christ child - a baby w _____ in strips of cloth and lying in a m _____ (i.e. a feeding crate)
 - b. Therefore a sign is something unique and o _____
 2. What is the sign to behold? – *a pregnant v _____*.
 - a. Some have insisted that the Hebrew word Isaiah used means a young woman not necessarily a virgin (this is a t _____ statement as to the basic meaning of the word itself).
 - b. Context always determines the intended meaning – how is a pregnant young woman a sign unless she claims to be a v _____ (that would be unique and obvious).
- The uniqueness of this virgin story
 1. Greek and Roman mythology had stories of virgins that were impregnated by gods. However, the women l _____ her virginity in the act.
 2. Mary r _____ her virginity since she conceived by the p _____ of the Holy Spirit.
 3. In all of ancient history, how many virgins have claimed to retain their virginity while being pregnant? _____ - that is why (I think) Matthew changed Isaiah's wording from a virgin to the virgin
- When God gives a prophecy (see Isaiah 46:9-11)
 1. He is not looking into the f _____ and declaring what He sees.
 2. He is d _____ the future which He is going to make happen – *I have spoken. I will bring it to pass.*

Its acceptance would not be glorious – the S _____

- She will b _____ a son – How did Joseph react?
 1. A review of the situation
 - a. When Mary accepted her role of bearing the Christ, she was e _____ to Joseph (Jewish culture: engagements binding; lasted one year; lived separately; no intimacy)
 - b. She left Nazareth in a h _____ and went to her cousin Elizabeth who in her old age was six months pregnant with John the Baptist (Lk 1:38-40)

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- c. After the birth of John the Baptist, she returned (Lk 1:56)
 - d. Joseph did not believe the report that she was pregnant by the
H _____ S _____ (Matt 1:18 – *she was found...*)
 - e. While contemplating the c _____ thing to do (he was not angry; he did not want to shame her) and angel told him not to be a _____ to take Mary as his wife (Matt 1:20).
 - f. Joseph o _____ and took Mary as his wife but kept her a virgin until Jesus was born (Matt 1:24,25).
2. What did Mary and Joseph have to live with in their acceptance of this prophecy? The rumors followed them.
 - a. John 8:41 – the Jews implied that Jesus was born of f _____ and had more than _____ father.
 - b. John 8:48 – they believed that Jesus was a S _____ (i.e. they believed his biological father was non-Jewish).
- The Christian life is not promised to be glorious but difficult
- a. We are to s _____ for God’s Word in face of rejection.
 - b. We are to l _____ out God’s Word no matter what.
 - c. This does not r _____ us of a better life, but is the road to a fulfilling life (Jn 10:10).
 - d. As Joseph was told not to be afraid, so we too must not be afraid to obey God’s word – we will experience life to the f _____.

Its result is mysterious – the uns _____

- The last part of Matthew’s prophetic quote reads, *they will call His name Immanuel*, yet Joseph named the child J _____.
- a. The word “name” is often used to refer to what c _____ a person rather than a birth name – Is 9:6 states, *His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace*.
 - b. Immanuel describes Jesus character – He is God with _____
 - c. Isaiah 7:14 says, *she will call His name Immanuel*, where Matthew says, *they will call His name Immanuel*.
 - 1) Matthew is looking b _____ at who believed Jesus to be “God with us”
 - 2) All true followers of Jesus (not just Mary) believed Jesus to be God with them – Jn 1:1,14; Matt 28:20
- Although God being with us is unseen by the human eye, the Scriptures state the world can r _____ this as true.
1. Many overemphasize the individual relationship and end up m _____ the group relationship (“God is with me” versus “God is with us”)
 2. Consider these Scriptures that speak of impacting the world:

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- a. Jn 13:35 – by this all people will know that we are Jesus's disciples if we unselfishly l_____ one another (interactivity).
- b. Rom 12:4 – we are one body in Christ and so are individually m_____ of one another (interdependency).
- c. Jn 17:20,21 – Jesus prayed the our oneness would be like His oneness with God the Father so that the w_____ would come to believe that Jesus was truly sent by God (unity).

Conclusion:

●Evaluation

1. Jn 13:35 – List ways that you are unselfishly loving others in this church body.
 2. Rom 12:4 – How interconnected are you to the people of this church on a scale of 1-10.
 3. Jn 17:20,21 – How unified are you with this church body?
- Write an action plan for each of the above three that will improve the witness that God is with us.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.