

## Why a Virgin Birth?

Isaiah 7

### Introduction:

- Name that tune that goes with each phrase:
  1. Offspring of a virgin's womb
  2. Round yon virgin mother
  3. The virgin sings her lullaby
- Why do some deny that Jesus was born of a virgin?
  1. Some do not believe that m\_\_\_\_\_ are possible.
  2. Some do not see it taught in the b\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Some view the story as a m\_\_\_\_\_ that was produced to explain an extraordinary man.
- Some questions to consider
  1. Did Jesus have to be born of a virgin?
  2. What would have happened if He were not born of a virgin?
  3. Why is this doctrine so important?

### The virgin birth was prophesied as God's s\_\_\_\_\_ (14a)

*Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you \_\_\_\_\_ a sign:  
Behold, a virgin will be with child.*

- The context of these words:
  1. The historical context of verse 14 which was spoken over 780 years before Jesus was born.
    - a. Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms
      - 1) N\_\_\_\_\_ Israel (they retained the name Israel as the name of their kingdom, but sometimes they were called Ephraim)
      - 2) S\_\_\_\_\_ Israel (their kingdom was known as Judah)
    - b. Two countries (Aram and Northern Israel) unsuccessfully attacked Judah and regrouped in a strategic location (1)
      - 1) The people of Judah and its King (Ahaz) were greatly f\_\_\_\_\_ (2)
      - 2) God sent the p\_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah to calm their fears (3,4)
  2. Verse 14 in relation to the surrounding verses – Isaiah told King Ahaz what the Lord said:
    - a. The invading nations would f\_\_\_\_\_ (7)

- b. Within 65 years Ephraim (Northern Israel) would be s\_\_\_\_\_ and scattered, no longer being a people group (8)
- c. *If you guys don't b\_\_\_\_\_, you guys* (Judah or Southern Israel) *will not last* (9) – the word *you* is plural.
  - 1) However, even though Judah does not believe, God still will fulfill His promise of preserving the House of David and raising up the Messiah to establish the throne of David forever (this is what the rest of chapter 7 and chapters 8-11 are about).
  - 2) *King Ahaz, ask for a s\_\_\_\_\_* (that points to the fulfillment of God's promise of raising up the Messiah) – verses 10,11
    - a) Ahaz r\_\_\_\_\_ with false piety (v. 12)
    - b) So the Lord gives him the sign.

● The prophecy of Is 7:14

1. *Behold* – this means to take careful n\_\_\_\_\_
2. *A virgin*
  - a. Some see Is 8:3 as fulfilling these words (Isaiah's wife conceiving) – however, she is not called a virgin but a p\_\_\_\_\_. The son is not from D\_\_\_\_\_ line. And the name Immanuel is not associated with this son but with the ruler of the promised land (see 8:8).
  - b. The word translated virgin can mean a young maiden, but cannot mean that here because:
    - 1) Matthew 1:20-23 interprets it to mean virgin
    - 2) The nature of a s\_\_\_\_\_ demands us to interpret it to mean virgin.
3. *A sign* – by definition is something that is uncommon or unusual (e.g. Cain's m\_\_\_\_\_ in Gen 4:15 that identified him; the r\_\_\_\_\_ in Gen 9:13 as a sign of God's promise; a m\_\_\_\_\_ as proof as seen in Ex 4:8).
  - a. It was common to see young women who were pregnant.
  - b. It was not unusual to see young unmarried women who were pregnant (e.g. p\_\_\_\_\_).
  - c. But it would be unheard of for an unmarried lady to claim that she got pregnant without losing her virginity! This was the story – Matt 1:25; Jn 8:41.

## The virgin birth produced our God-m\_\_\_\_\_ (14b)

*And bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.*

- How was this prophecy fulfilled when both Mary and Joseph were commanded to call their son, Jesus? (Matt 1:21; Lk 1:31).
  1. In Hebrew thought the word *name* did not just mean a person's b\_\_\_\_\_ name (see Is 9:6)
  2. It also can refer to a person's c\_\_\_\_\_ or a character trait (see Col 3:17).
- Immanuel means G\_\_\_\_\_ with us (see Matt 1:23)
  1. Luke 1:35 states that Jesus will be called the S\_\_\_\_\_ of God because He was not born by a human father.
  2. John 5:18 – the religious rulers stated that Jesus was making Himself equal with God by calling Him His own f\_\_\_\_\_.
- The nature of Jesus
  1. His human nature came from M\_\_\_\_\_ - however, He did not inherit Mary's sin nature because God's p\_\_\_\_\_ overrides man's imperfection (see 2Pet 1:20,21).
  2. His divine nature is something He \_\_\_\_\_ had (Jn 1:1,14)
  3. God became with us by being born of a v\_\_\_\_\_.
- This prophecy did not arise from mythology, but gave rise to virgin mythologies.
  1. Romulus (who lived in the 700's B.C) was said to be the son of the god, M\_\_\_\_\_ (Livy, History 1).
  2. H\_\_\_\_\_, who lived in the days of Isaiah, wrote about four "gods" who were born of a virgin.
  3. False information is being circulated today that around 3000 B.C., the Egyptians had a virgin myth story about Horus. But he was conceived by a sexual union.
  4. I know of no virgin mythologies prior to Isaiah's prophecy.

### Conclusion:

- We were all born under God's w\_\_\_\_\_ because of Adam's sin (Eph 2:3; Rom 5:12).
- Since we all have actually sinned, we cannot come to God because it separates us from Him (Rom 3:23).
- So, God came to us by being born of a virgin to save us from our sins (Matt 1:21).
- Without the miracle of the virgin birth, God would not be with us and there would be no Christmas. Celebrate the virgin birth!