

## Ancient Anticipation Part 2: The Virgin Birth of Jesus

December 03, 2023

Isaiah 7:10-17

1. **8<sup>th</sup> Century Prophecy of the Virgin Birth:** In 734 BC, the northern kingdom of Israel (Ephraim) and Syria (Aram) wanted the southern kingdom of Israel (Judah) to help fight against the Assyrian empire. Judah declined and they were threatened to be destroyed and told a foreign king (a son of Tabel, Is. 7:6) to be placed on the throne of David. There are three perspectives of the virgin birth passage: Microscopic, Naked-Eye, and Telescopic.
  - a. **Microscopic View:** Ahaz was a Davidic king; Isaiah was called to prophesy to Ahaz that Ephraim would be conquered along with Syria by Assyria (7:18-25). Judah would go into exile because of Babylon in 586 BC. Isaiah calls Ahaz not to be afraid of the armies (7:4) and have saving faith in YHWH (7:9). God offers Ahaz anything he wishes (V10-11). Ahaz already has determined a human solution and rejects the offer by the LORD. Ahaz a son of David, isn't persuaded by his lineage to David (V13). In judgement against Ahaz, God gives a prophecy that a virgin will bring forth a Son (Jesus) to rule over Israel, Ahaz is rejected (V14). Ahaz is a wicked and evil king.
  - b. **Naked-Eye View:** 2 Kings 16:1-4, he was prideful and arrogant and acted wickedly. He was polytheistic (2 Chron. 28:2-4). 120K men of Judah (Ahaz's army) were defeated. 200K of their women and children were taken, later returned (2 Chron. 28:9-15). Ahaz - determined to ask Assyria for help against Ephraim and Syria (2 Kgs. 16:7-11) and Ahaz built an altar for sacrifices like the Assyrian king's (2 Kgs. 16: 10-13). Ahaz even moved the alter from the temple to the new pagan altar to make sacrifices on it (2 Kgs. 16:14-16).
  - c. **Telescopic View:** with genuine faith, Ahaz could have asked for God to defeat his enemies by coming Himself (Is. 7:14). God would certainly send His Son, a Davidic King.
2. **Truth of the Virgin Birth:** Why we believe Jesus was born of a virgin: 1) Heritage Reason: numerous Christian believers who believe the truth of Christ's birth. Those who denied virgin birth were considered to be heretics. 2) Uniformity Reason: it is a part of God's Biblical record and consistent with other miracles God did throughout Scripture. 3) Mary didn't consider herself sinless and was a worshipper of Jesus (Acts 1:14). Mary wouldn't have worshipped Jesus if He wasn't who He said He was, being born of a virgin. 4) Purity: natural conception would have introduced sin, John 3:6, Rom. 5:12. 5) The Bible Teaches the Virgin Birth: "born of Mary," Matt. 1:16. Joseph knew he wasn't Jesus' father, Matt. 1:18-21. "Conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit," Matt. 1:20. Fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy in Is. 7:14 in Matt. 1:22-23. Mary remained a virgin until Jesus was born, Matt. 1:25. Luke's account is from Mary's viewpoint. Matthew includes the viewpoint of Joseph. Other passages which confirm the virgin birth: Luke 3:23, "being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph." Mark 6:3, "Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary?" "We were not born of fornication," Jn. 8:41. "We do not know where He is from," Jn. 9:29. "God sent His Son born of a woman," Gal. 4:4. God provided a body for Jesus, Heb. 10:5. To Satan God said, "Between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed," Gen. 3:15.
3. **Implications of a Virgin Birth:** 3 Guarantees: 1) Never be separated from God- Immanuel, God with us, Is. 7:14. It was necessary from a human standpoint for God to come in the flesh as a man.

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2) Sin debt is paid in full. Rom. 5:12, 19 sin entered the world through Adam. Ps. 51:5, David conceived in sin, attributed to his mother. The Holy Spirit ensures the sinlessness of Jesus not being conceived from Joseph. We know His sacrifice for sin was perfect. 3) Salvation is supernatural from God alone: Gen. 3:15, God's promise to defeat Satan and sin. John 3 tells that the Spirit blows as He wishes and causes us to be born again. God with us means us with God always.

4. **Royalty of Virgin Birth:** Ahaz was descended from David. The prophecy of Is. 7:14 is related to King David. In Gen. 4:1, Eve acknowledged conception was from the LORD. God told Hagar that she would have a son, Gen. 16:11. Sarah conceived after the Lord gave life to her body to conceive, Gen. 21:2. The mother of Moses conceived and bore a son, Moses, Ex. 2:2. Samson conceived from a barren woman, heralded by the Angel of the Lord, a deliverer for Israel who would help defeat the Philistines and make way for David to come, Judges 13:3. Hannah, barren given Samuel who would announce the ordination of David, 1 Sam. 1:20. None of these were conceived by the Holy Spirit. It is a precious promise of God being kept that a wicked king's loss would be our gain.

### Further Discussion and Application

The story of Abraham, Hagar, Hannah, and Samson all have a common participant within the narrative. What is happening God's plan to bring a Savior to mankind? What is God demonstrating to believers about His sovereign control in all things?

Being a true believer in YHWH in the time of Ahaz would be horrific. The temple implements are being used for pagan worship and human sacrifice to appease false Gods. The wealth of the nation is being given away to appease a foreign king instead of trusting in YHWH and His prophets and returning and repenting to YHWH. What is the condition of men apart from saving faith? How can you encourage yourself in God's Word? What should we do while we wait for Jesus to return and while we still have time to honor and worship Him? What is the focus and purpose of life of the believer? What is their focus while on earth?

Titus 2:1-15 gives us a list of responsibilities in the church and life. What should believers be doing with their time and effort? Tit. 2:12, what is living soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age? If soberly can be defined as prudently and a sound mind, righteously being defined as knowing what is right from Scripture and what is godly obedience, and godly being defined as practical and daily living in the world with righteous behavior, how can we grow in sobriety, righteousness, and godliness? What is our focus while we wait for our final days or the rapture of the church? Is this a simple recipe? What are the actions of a believer doing this? What does V12 command us to do to start off?