

When Prophets Speak of Christmas #2 Matthew 1:18-25 (12/14/08)

1. The Miracle of Christ's Birth (18, 20)

A Supernatural Conception

Joseph and Mary were betrothed to one another. The agreement was between the parents. The couple was called husband and wife but they lived apart and had no physical relationship whatsoever "Mary was betrothed to Joseph before they came together".

- **Jesus was not conceived by _____ means**

Mary gave Jesus His human nature. She did not give Him His personhood. He is the eternal Son of God. The Holy Spirit was instrumental in the eternal Son coming into the womb of Mary. Luke 1:34-36, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you...."

1 Timothy 3:16, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...."

- **The virgin birth is essential for Christ's _____**

The sin of Adam was not imputed to Him so that Jesus was human yet sinless. In Mary's womb Jesus possessed both a divine nature and human nature. God the Son took on the full nature of man yet retained the nature of God, Colossians 2:9-10.

The Incarnation Is the Central _____ of Christianity

2. The Prophecy of Christ's Birth (22-23)

A Supernatural Inspiration

At least 12 times in his Gospel Matthew uses the word "fulfilled" to describe prophecies realized in Jesus Christ. This particular prophecy is from Isaiah 7:14.

- **Old Testament prophecies come out of a particular historic situation while looking beyond to a _____ fulfillment**

The Northern Kingdom is called Israel and at times Ephraim. The historical setting is the growing power of Assyria which is threatening the Northern Kingdom. Syria and Israel formed an alliance and wanted Ahaz to join with them. Ahaz refused so they attacked him Isaiah 7:1. God brought these armies against Ahaz because of Israel's sins, 2 Chronicles 28:5-6. Isaiah was sent to Ahaz with a message from the Lord. Isaiah told Ahaz not to fear this alliance that it would not stand. In fact, within 65 years the northern kingdom would cease to exist as a nation.

- **Ahaz was told to ask the Lord for a _____**

Ahaz would not ask for a sign to confirm his faith because he had no faith in Jehovah. He was in fact working behind the scenes to make an alliance with Assyria instead of trusting in Jehovah.

- **The Lord gave a sign to _____**

God had given this gracious offer in spite of Ahaz's idolatry because he was of "the house of David" Isaiah 7:2, 13.

The sign to Ahaz was that a child would be born in Judah and before he was old enough to understand the alliance he feared would be broken. (15) Within three years Assyria had defeated Syria and put Resin to death.

- **The Lord gave a sign to _____**

God had guaranteed the security of David's house, 2 Samuel 7:16. The Messiah would be identified through His supernatural birth.

The Promise to David Is Fulfilled In _____

3. The Reality of Christ's Birth (21, 23)

The Reality of His Birth Is Revealed In His Names

- **Jesus is His _____ name**

Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, "Jehovah is salvation". Jesus means savior. 1 Timothy 1:15, Acts 4:12

The Reality of Christmas Is That the Savior Has Come

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- **Immanuel is his _____ name**

Jesus never bore the name Immanuel but it indicates that He is bringing God's presence to man. When Adam and Eve sinned

in the Garden their sin separated them from God. God promised that one would come through the seed of a woman who would restore that relationship. Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Jesus is the promised redeemer; God Himself has come to save us. Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman...."

The purpose of Messianic prophecy is to make the Messiah known through the fulfillment of those prophecies.

The Messiah of Israel Is the _____