

A Virgin will be with Child

Introduction

Each Christmas we inevitably receive a card with one of the following verses:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. Is 7:14

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us, and the government will rest on His shoulders and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Is 9:6

When and why were these promises given? Why are they so significant?
What is the historical context of these promises?

The Vision & Call of Isaiah, Is 6

vs 1 in the year of king Uzziah's death

The vision of the throne of God, Key word: _____

vs 5 the response of Isaiah, I am ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips

vs 7 God provides a means of cleansing and forgiveness of sin, (today 1 John 1:9)

vs 8-11 The two opposite effects of the Word of God, hardening, or enlightenment

The War against Jerusalem, Is 7

Situation: Two kings, Rezin, king of Aram, and Pekah, king of Israel, are seeking to attack Judah, and create a coalition to go against Assyria

vs 3 God instructs Isaiah to confront Ahaz, king of Judah, and to take his son Shear Jashub, whose name means "a remnant will return"

vs 4-7 Basic message, Do not fear, Their plan will not come to pass

vs 4 These two kings are like a smoldering firebrand that will soon go out

vs 8-9 These two kings will be shattered within 65 years

Ahaz goes to Assyria for Help, 2 Kings 16

vs 1-4 Ahaz becomes king at the age of 20, reigns 16 years,
Did not do right, worshipped pagan gods

vs 5 Resin, king of Aram, and Pekah king of Israel attack Jerusalem (same event)

vs 7-9 Ahaz goes to Tiglathpileser, king of Assyria for help

vs 10-18 Ahaz copies the altar and adopts the worship of Assyria's gods

Ahaz rejected the counsel of Isaiah, did not trust God, but trusted in Assyria.
This put Judah under obligation to Assyria.

The Sign of Immanuel, Is 7:14

vs 10-13 Lord offered Ahaz to ask for a sign, He refuses with religious smugness

vs 14-16 God gives a sign: a Virgin with child, will call His name Immanuel
Before the boy can choose between good & evil, the kings will be destroyed

The sign will confirm the promise of vs 7, their plans will not come to pass

The Ultimate, (long term) Fulfillment, Matthew 1

vs 18-19 Joseph considering what to do with Mary

vs 20-21 An angel appeared in a dream, the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit

Purpose: He will save His people from their _____

vs 22-23 This took place to fulfill the sign to Ahaz, Is 7:14

But how is a child born 700 years later a sign to Ahaz?

The Immediate, (short term) Fulfillment, Is 8

Who is the child born in the time of Ahaz? MUCH theological debate on this!

vs 1-4 A son is born to Isaiah, Mahershalal-hash-baz, meaning,
"Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey"

vs 4 Before the boy knows how to speak,
the two kings will be carried away by the king of Assyria

vs 18 Isaiah and his children have been given for signs in Israel

Main Points

Judah is under attack by two kings, Rezin & Pekah, The people are afraid

Isaiah goes to Ahaz with his son, and assures him the plans of these kings will not come to pass. Trust God, He will deliver Judah

Ahaz does not trust God, but goes to the king of Assyria for help, 2 Kgs 16

God gives a sign to confirm His promise to deliver, a child will be born, while the child is still young, the threat of these two kings will be gone

This sign has both a short term, and long term fulfillment. The ultimate fulfillment is the birth of Jesus Christ to the virgin Mary, Matt 1:21-23 He will deliver from sin.

God's word & promises can be trusted. God is in control of history.

There is no problem we face, that is too big for God to deliver.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:6-7 (also see Is 41:10)