

TO FULFILL WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN #1
“The Virgin Shall Conceive”
November 26-28, 2005

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *Matthew 1:18-25 TNIV*

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of human beings? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. *Isaiah 7:13-14 TNIV*

Introduction: Most casual Christmas celebrants miss the true meaning of the Gospel birth narratives. The most significant theme of these passages is not that the incarnation of God in human form was so surprising, but that it was so inevitable. The true meaning of Christmas is that God always keeps his promises to save His people.

- I. A People Without a Hope (Isaiah 5)
 - A. When God chose Abraham (Abram) and salvaged a remnant of His creation, he established a vineyard to yield good fruit of righteousness.
 - B. He planted the vineyard on a fertile field, tended it lovingly, and protected it from harm.
 - C. When that vineyard yielded wild and bitter fruit, God removed his protection and allowed its destruction.

- II. A God with a Promise (Isaiah 9)
 - A. Yet in His mercy and because of His covenant love, God promised to redeem His people again.
 - B. The same people who “walked in darkness” would “see a great light.” (v.2 and John 1:1-5)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. *John 1:1-5 TNIV*
 - C. The “zeal of the Lord” would bring forth a son from the lineage of King David, who would be “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.”
 - D. This child would provide for the salvation of his people.
- III. A Promise with a Sign (Isaiah 7:13-14)
 - A. When God’s people dared not even ask for visible proof of God’s love, a sign was nonetheless offered.
 - B. A young woman, a virgin, would conceive a child.
 - C. That child would be Immanuel, “God with us.”
- IV. A Story with a Meaning (Matthew 1:18-25)
 - A. The virgin spoken of in Isaiah’s prophecy was Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, a “son of David.”
 - B. Mary gave birth to a son conceived of the God’s Holy Spirit.
 - C. That son was named Jesus, an Aramaic name meaning “he will save.”
 - D. Matthew tells us that “*all this* took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet” Isaiah.
 - E. In other words, God always keeps His promises.

Conclusion: It is far too easy to become lost in the “gee, whiz” of Christmas and miss the “oh, wow” of God’s covenant love. Despite our continued unfaithfulness and the consequences of our unrighteousness, God always keeps his promises: “He never leaves us or forsakes us.” We can trust him with our lives!