

ISAIAH 7

First of all---an assignment. Read Isaiah 7:1-16; 9:1-7; 11:1-10.

I will not try to discuss all of the verses preceding Isaiah 7:10, but Isaiah had been sent by God to assure Ahaz that the conspiracy would not succeed. Ahaz just needed to hold steady and continue to trust in God. (Perhaps that in itself is a message most of us need to remember!) Isaiah offered Ahaz a supernatural sign to confirm his faith. Well, it seems that Ahaz already had his mind made up as to the action concerning Pekah, and Rezin. (Again, that sounds like us, doesn't it? Do you ever 'pray with your mind made up'? Yet, if someone asked if we prayed, we say a resounding "Yes".) Since Ahaz had his mind made up, he pretended to be too humble to ask for a miracle from God. In verses 13 and 14, we find that God did not give the sign to Ahaz, but to the house of David. (The word 'you' in verse 14 is plural in the Hebrew, so refers to the house of David, and not just to Ahaz.) God would give a sign, whether or not Ahaz asked for it. Verse 14 states that "...a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." The Hebrew word for 'virgin of marriageable age' is *almah*, and is sometimes translated 'maiden', but is never used in the Bible for a married women. The Jews of Alexandria who translated the Greek Septuagint version at the time of Christ used the Greek word *parthenos*, which definitely meant 'virgin'.

But, why would an ordinary birth be regarded as a 'sign'? First of all, it was no ordinary birth. The virgin birth is first prophesied in Genesis 3:15 which states "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **HER** seed; {note: the bold and capitals are mine}; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his heel." (That is a prophecy about the crucifixion, also.) Notice, 'her seed' is mentioned, not 'their seed'.

Returning to Isaiah 7:14, note that it states that she 'shall bear a son'. This is very important. Think about---what chromosomes do women have? What chromosomes do men have? In case we need a quick anatomy lesson, females have XX, and males have XY. So, IF (and that would be a BIG IF) the female body were to 'reproduce' alone, she only has the chromosomes necessary for another female. So, the birth of a male child by a virgin would have to involve a miracle of creation. There can be no natural explanation for this occurrence. God through the Holy Spirit created what was necessary for the male infant---Jesus, Christ our Lord.

(I hope you will have the time to read the entire chapters concerning Ahaz. We can learn a lot from his situation.)

Before closing this lesson, let's look at how Isaiah 9: 6 describes Jesus.

"...and his name shall be called:"

1. Wonderful----worthy of admiration. He was a wonder in His birth, His acts, His teachings, His example, His death and His resurrection. He is a wonder in His interceding for us

at the Father's right hand. And, He will be a wonder when He returns for His own (the rapture), and in the new Jerusalem.

2. Counsellor-----He brings divine wisdom and guidance, and provides for another Counsellor, the Comforter.

(Some writers think wonderful and counsellor should be written wonderful counsellor. But, He is a Wonder, and a Marvel, and a Counsellor----so most think it best to take the words separately.)

3. Mighty God-----no less than God Himself; reveals His deity.

4. Everlasting Father-----the Father and Author of eternity. And, not only is He eternal, but He gives eternal life (to us!!).

5.) Prince of Peace-----He not only brings peace, but He Himself is our peace.

While there is much more that could be said on this topic, I will stop here, except to bring a reminder. In Isaiah 9, God promises a glorious light to defeat the darkness (vs. 2), a glorious increase and universal joy (vs. 3), and a glorious liberty (vs. 4, 5). Are God's promises the same today as they were in Isaiah's day? Allow me to leave you with two scriptures. Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I change not...", and Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." As the old song states so beautifully-----"It is no secret what God can do. What He has done for others, He will do for you." Would you reject a gift from a friend? No! Please do not reject His gift, the gift of His Son.

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