

Isaiah 7:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Analysis

This is one of Scripture's most celebrated Messianic prophecies. The virgin birth ('almah' in Hebrew, speaking of a young woman of marriageable age, translated 'parthenos'—virgin—in the Greek Septuagint) would be an unprecedented sign from God. The name 'Immanuel' meaning 'God with us' points beyond the immediate historical context to the incarnation of Christ, where deity and humanity unite in one person. Matthew 1:22-23 explicitly identifies Jesus's virgin birth as the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Historical Context

Isaiah delivered this prophecy during King Ahaz's reign (circa 735 BC) when Judah faced invasion from Syria and Israel. Ahaz refused God's offer of a sign, yet God gave one anyway. While there may have been an initial partial fulfillment in Isaiah's time, the New Testament clearly presents Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment. The early church saw this as powerful evidence that Jesus was the promised Messiah, born of a virgin exactly as prophesied.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the virgin birth demonstrate both God's supernatural power and His desire to dwell intimately with humanity?
2. What does the name 'Immanuel' reveal about Jesus's nature and His mission to reconcile God and man?

Interlinear Text

לִּכְנֹ	יֵתֵן	אֲדֹנָי	לָכֵן הָאֵל	אֶתְּ	הֵן הָאֵל
H3651	himself shall give	Therefore the Lord	H1931	H0	you a sign
	H5414	H136			H226
הַעֲלֶמָה	הַכָּה	וְיִלְדֶת	בֵּן	וְקָרָא אֶת	שְׁמִי וְ
Behold a virgin	shall conceive	and bear	a son	and shall call	his name
H5959	H2030	H3205	H1121	H7121	H8034
אֵל:					
H6005					

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 1:23 (Parallel theme): Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Isaiah 9:6 (Parallel theme): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Luke 1:31 (Parallel theme): And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

John 1:14 (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Luke 1:35 (Parallel theme): And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

1 Timothy 3:16 (Parallel theme): And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Isaiah 8:8 (Parallel theme): And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.

Genesis 3:15 (Parallel theme): And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Isaiah 8:10 (Parallel theme): Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

Jeremiah 31:22 (References Lord): How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.