

Lesson: BIRTH OF IMMANUEL

Special prophetic Christmas card was hand carried from heaven by Gabriel to Joseph while asleep. Joseph had decided to privately divorce Mary because of her pregnancy prior to Gabriel's visit to Joseph. During old covenant days, prophetic dreams were part of spiritual mature believer's modus operandi.

Today's lesson will study **SIX aspects** of Gabriels' prophetic message from Isa.7:14 of the **Birth of Immanuel** to Joseph while he was asleep.

1. Book of Matthew (chs.1-2) records six messianic **prophecies** of the historical birth of Jesus Christ as the Messiah. We will study the first three in 2025.

1st – Matt.1:18-23 (Isa.7:14) – Birth of Immanuel (12/ 14).

2nd – Matt.2:1-2 (Num.24:17) – Star of Christ (12/ 21)

3rd – Matt.2:3-8 (Micah 5:2) – Birthplace of Christ (12/ 28).

4th - Matt.2:15 - Egyptian Connection to Birth of Christ.

5th – Matt.2:17-18 (Jer.31:15) – Massacre at Bethlehem.

6th – Matt.19-23 (Isa.53:2-3) – Christ, the Nazarene

2. Gabriel outlined four important points of Isaiah's prophecy of Birth of Immanuel.
 - Matt.1:20-23 identifies Christ as messianic Savior from AOS (Adam's original sin/ Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12; 1 Cor.15:22).
 - Matt.1:22-23 identifies virgin conception and birth by Mary.
 - Matt.1:23 identifies Immanuel as Mary's firstborn son (Matt.13:55-56).
 - Matt.1:23 identifies Birth of Jesus as Son of God, Immanuel (Hypostasis Union).
3. Scriptural background of Isa.7:14 occurred during the reign of King Ahaz of Judah some 700 yrs before Matthew account. Judah was being attacked because of alliance Israel and Syria against Assyria.

King Ahaz was afraid and sought the Lord for a sign of divine deliverance (Isa.7:10-19). King Ahaz refused divine deliverance and sought rather the deliverance from Assyria. **Listen to Isa.8:10 – “Devise a plan (human solution) but it will be thwarted; state a proposal (human wisdom), but it will not stand. For God Is with us (Immanuel).”** Northern kingdom went under 5th Cycle to Assyria in 722BC.

Same thing occurred to Israel in 586BC to Babylon and again in 70AD to Rome (John 1:11-13; 1 Cor.14:220-22; 1:22/ Matt.12:38-40).

4. God always accomplishes His directive will whether working with positive volition (PV) or against NV (King Ahaz and Prophet Jonah).

The Christmas story of both Joseph and Mary shows the importance of surrender of PV to the directive will (Matt.1:18-25 and Luke 1:31-38).

When Gabriel showed up, Joseph was struggling with the will of God. He thought he had only two options (public or private divorce but NOT marriage based on Scripture of Deut. 22 and 24. After settling on private divorce, he fell asleep and Gabriel appeared in a dream that changed his life.

*Joseph like so many of us failed to search all the Scriptures for God's will. **Isa.7:14 was one of the most famous Messianic Scriptures simply overlooked (Luke 1:37-38).***

5. The virgin conception-birth was one of **three great signs** from Isaiah to Israel regarding the First Coming of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.1:22).

1st Sign – Virgin conception-birth – Isa.7:14 (Matt.1:20-23).

2nd Sign – Crucifixion – Isa.53:9 (Deut.21:22-23; Gal.3:10-14; John 19:31-37; Ex.12:46).

3rd Sign – Gift of Tongues – Isa.28:11 (1 Cor.14:20-22).

Coming divine discipline of the 5th Cycle would come following the violation of these three signs to Israel to Rome in 70AD (**Lev.26:14-46; Deut.28:15-68**).

6. Immanuel (God with us) is an important messianic prophesy of Matthew's Christmas story of Jesus Christ (Isa.7:14/ Matt.1:23).

Immanuel teaches the doctrine of Hypostatic Union of Jesus Christ. Undiminished Deity and True Humanity in one unique person of human race. Jesus was 100% God and 100% man in human form. **"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form."** (Col.2:9/ Heb.1:3)

He was called both **"The Son of Man"** (Luke 18:31-34) and **"The Son of God"** (Luke 1:35).

Jesus had to be Hypostatic Union to qualify to die on Cross for our sins and to be buried and raised on the third day to become **our Savior** (2 Cor.5:21; 1 Cor.15:22, 45; John 3:13, 16; Col.1:13-14).