

LESSON 2 • 9/21/18

TEXT • ISAIAH 7:1–16

IV • SUMMARY & READING

Here is a story you might not know:

King Ahaz of Judah faced two enemies—Israel and Aram. He had lost hope and felt defeated already. But Isaiah was sent to encourage him— “Your enemies won’t last long!”

But Ahaz didn’t have much faith and was afraid to take Isaiah at his word, and he refused to ask God for a sign to prove the promise of an imminent victory. So, God chose the sign to convince Ahaz deliverance—a “virgin” would have a baby, and while this child was still a toddler, Ahaz’s enemies would be totally wiped out.

Now, wait a minute, you might be thinking, there was a “virgin birth” in the days of Isaiah, too? How is this possible? I thought Jesus was the only born-of-a-virgin in the Bible? What’s going on here? Don’t panic. Jesus is the only “born of a virgin.” Here is the amazing way that God works:

In the HEBREW language Isaiah used, the word translated “virgin” typically means “maiden” or “young woman.” What he was saying to Ahaz was that a young woman would get married and quickly have child; and while the child was still young, Ahaz’s enemies would be defeated. The sign of the “young maiden” was about *timing*—that the victory would come soon—in about a year or so.

But, when Isaiah’s prophecy is quoted about Jesus in the New Testament—in GREEK, the word used for “virgin” can *only mean that!* As Mary said, “How can this be, since I haven’t known a man?” There was no father involved in Jesus’ birth. It was a total miracle.

You see, Isaiah’s prophecy had TWO fulfillments. The first: a child’s birth would be a comforting sign to an ancient king facing his enemies. The other story you know very well: you hear it every Christmas time! And to Joseph, Mary, and Jesus, the Virgin Birth is one of the most amazing prophecies and miracles in all of scripture!

Pray: That you will understand God’s word, not like Ahaz who had little faith and understanding of the fulness of God’s plans, but rather, like Mary and Joseph, the first people to have their minds blown by the real truth in Isaiah’s prophecy—that God would reveal to you the real truth, power, and meaning of His Word as you read His spectacular Scriptures.

VARSITY • QUESTIONS & CROSS REFERENCES

BUT WHY??? Why did Jesus have to have an earthly mother, but no earthly father? Here are some reasons...

First reason for the Virgin Birth...

Job 9:32–33 • As Job wrestled with the question of “Why does God allow me to suffer?”, he realized that he wasn’t on equal terms with God and couldn’t answer or challenge God. What does Job say that he needed—and what would this person do?

1 John 2:1 • What is Jesus’ role called?

Hebrews 7:25 & Romans 8:34 • This role of Jesus is given *another* term in these verses. What is it?

1 Timothy 2:3–6 (& also see **Hebrews 8:6**) • What is the third term for this role of Jesus?

Bonus Questions: What is God called in **1 Timothy 2:3**? What does He desire for *all* people?

Hebrews 4:14–16 • Jesus had to be both God and man...

Because He was fully man, He could “sympathize with us” and understand our

_____, yet without any sin!

And yet, Jesus, who is the “Son of God” who “passed through the heavens,”

He can represent us before the “throne of _____” (**Hebrews 8:1**)

The Second Reason for the Virgin Birth...

Jesus is called “the man Christ Jesus” in 1 Timothy 2. This doesn’t mean that Jesus isn’t also fully God (Colossians 1:19)—but it stresses Jesus’ role as a man. Let’s go deeper...

Romans 5:12 & 15 • Adam is the first *man* in this verse—who brought

_____ to the world. **Verse 15** stresses that Jesus is The One Man who brings _____ to the world.

So now, answer the question—“Why did Jesus have to be both God and **MAN**?” (*Hint: it has to do with Adam*)...

Third Reason for the Virgin Birth...

Many theologians believe the sin nature is passed down from fathers to their children. You can see that described in **Exodus 34:7** • “...visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations.”

But, because Jesus had no earthly father, He was untainted from Adam’s sin. He was fully righteous and sinless and able to die in our place on the Cross.

Look again at **1 John 2:1**. What title is Jesus given at the end of this verse?

Fourth Reason for the Virgin Birth (*Bonus! This is a “Super-Varsity” Question!*)

Intro: Did you know there are TWO genealogies for Jesus in the New Testament—in Matthew and Luke? These genealogies are different in some key ways that teach some important truths, but we’ll just look at one issue...

Joseph’s father is named “_____” in **Matthew 1:6**, but Joseph’s “father” in **Luke 3:23** is named “_____.”

In **Luke 3:23**, what strange phrase describes Jesus’ relationship to Joseph?

BIG POINT—Most Bible scholars believe that Luke is actually showing us Jesus’ family line through His mother Mary!

The family lines are different all the way back to King David! Matthew’s line traces Jesus to David through _____ (see **Matthew 1:6**), but Luke traces Jesus to David through _____ (see **Luke 3:31**).

Now for the issue: Look up **Jeremiah 22:24 & 28–30**. What does God say about “Coniah” or “Jeconiah” (same guy—two names!)

Matthew 1:11 • What problem is found in this verse?

So... (*drum roll, please!*)

What is the **fourth reason** for the Virgin Birth of Jesus?
