

It's Christmas!

Christmas is upon us, and it is a wonderful season! What is so special about Christmas? We trust that as Christians, we take this opportunity to honor and worship our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah sent from above to save us from our sins.

Isaiah lived 700 years (2,700 years ago) before Jesus came into the world. Yet through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet shared advance news of some wonderful truths about the Christ of Christmas.

1. *There would be a supernatural birth.*

"Therefore, the Lord Himself shall give you a sign: Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

Isaiah predicted--centuries in advance--that the Christ would come and that the baby Messiah would arrive into the world in an extraordinary manner. He would have a human mother who had never had intimate relations with a man. He would be born of a virgin. The Apostle Matthew confirmed this about Isaiah's prophecy. How amazing that a child would be born with a human mother, but not a human father! Yet, this is how the Bible says that our Lord would enter the world.

Some have denied the Virgin Birth. But denying the Virgin Birth is denying the truthfulness of the Word of God. Matthew and Luke, in the New Testament, teach the Virgin Birth. Mary said, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34).

The Virgin Birth is clearly taught, and not merely an interpretation. If Matthew and Luke are wrong here, why should we consider anything else they said to be trustworthy?

If God did not cause Mary to conceive, where did Christ get his divine nature? This is a real problem if both of Christ's parents were human beings.

If God is not the Father of Jesus Christ, then who was? It was not Joseph (Matthew 1:18-20). Mary was engaged but not yet married to Joseph. If she engaged in illicit relations, then she certainly was not a godly person.

Probably the greatest problem with those who deny the Virgin Birth is the same they have with Jonah being swallowed by a big fish--it's too much for them.

2. Further, Isaiah tells us that *the Messiah would be a supernatural Person* (Isaiah 9:6-7). Is what we believe about the person of Christ important? Isaiah says that the one born would be the Eternal King. The one born would reign on the Throne of David. Jesus is ruling from Heaven now. He will rule in person during the Millennium (the 1,000 year kingdom of God on earth). Of course, He will rule forever.

He would be *Wonderful*. This is a noun, not an adjective. It is a separate name for Jesus. It is a name applied to God alone and never used to refer to a mere

mortal or man. It is always used in reference to God Himself.

He would be the *Counselor*. We try to get answers. But in the big questions, human words can't help. Our sorrows run too deep, and are too overwhelming. How can we get right with God? How can we do away with our sin and our guilt? Jesus said, "*I* am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

He would be the *Mighty God*. Isaiah 7:14 said that the Messiah would be "God with us." Here he says that a child is the Mighty God. Jesus Christ is no mere man. He is Almighty God. Christians do not serve a great man who is lying in a grave somewhere. Our Lord is God Himself, the sovereign ruler of the universe.

He would be the *Everlasting Father*. The Messiah would be one with the Father. Again, Isaiah is saying that the one born would be the Eternal God.

He would be the *Prince of Peace*. There is no peace in our world today. Injustice, war, hatred, bloodshed fill the earth. But someday the Prince of Peace will come, and when He does, there will finally be peace on earth.

3. Isaiah said that the *Messiah would perform a supernatural work* (Isaiah 53:4-6). The angel told Joseph, "You shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)

700 years earlier, Isaiah said it this way: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Jesus Christ did something only the sinless God-Man could do. At Calvary he suffered and died for our sins so that we would be forgiven and go to Heaven. Jesus now offers pardon and forgiveness to all who repent of their sins and trust Him as Lord and Saviour.

Jesus Christ was born in a supernatural manner (born of a virgin), is a supernatural person (God), and performed a supernatural act--dying for the salvation of souls.

Isn't this a wonderful message for Christmas! Joy to the World!

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