

The Full Picture of Christmas
Child of Destiny
12/09/2018 Sunday AM

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:6-7; 11:1-5

Introduction

- This morning we will be beginning a series called **The Full Picture of Christmas**.
- We will attempt to look at the Christmas story in a more holistic fashion than what the world shows us.
- Too often this miraculous and highly important event is reduced to materialism and worldly dilutions.
- This morning we will discuss **Child of Destiny** as we go to the Old Testament to get a glimpse of how all of this began.
- When the Christmas story is told today, its roots in the Old Testament seem to have been forgotten.
- As we read these passages in Isaiah, we will see how long ago the Messiah's conception, character, and conquest were all foretold.

Isaiah 7:10-14 (Conception)

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

- **Context:** This passage was written in 734B.C. Ahaz is the king of Judah whose capital was Jerusalem.
- His kingdom was about to be attacked by an alliance of the northern kingdom of Israel and Aram.
- Ahaz was very afraid during this time and God was speaking to him to give him assurance that the kingdom of Judah would be protected.
- **V. 10-11** – God spoke to Ahaz and told him to ask for a sign.
- Here we see God being more than willing to provide a sign to confirm what he had already said to Ahaz.
- **V. 12** – However, Ahaz refused to ask. This verse may appear like he was being righteous here, he was not.
- It wasn't that Ahaz didn't want to "put the LORD to the test." It was that he did not want to hear what God had to say.
- Ahaz was one of Judah's worst kings and he was very wicked, his concern about testing the LORD was hypocritical.
- He had actually already turned to the Assyrians and made what he thought was a deal with them so that they would protect him and his kingdom.
- **Vv. 13-14** – Despite Ahaz refusing God's command to ask for a sign, God gives one anyway.
- This prophecy is for the entire "house of David" and to all of the world.
- ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
- Some try to argue that the word translated "virgin" in this text actually means "maiden" or "young woman".
 - When the Old Testament was translated into Greek, the translators used the word *parthenos*, which means "virgin".
 - An ordinary conception would hardly qualify as a "sign", and it would not have made the slightest impression on Ahaz.
- **Matthew 1:23** quotes this verse, "²³The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."
- Here in Isaiah, we see the remarkable conception of our Savior being prophesied more than 700 years before he was born.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (Character)

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

- This passage shows us the many amazing qualities that the Messiah would possess.
- **V.6** - “And he will be called...” – In biblical times, a person’s name was more than a means of identification. It revealed something about their character.
- The Messiah would have many facets to His character:
 - “Wonderful” – This word can also be translated “extraordinary” or “incomprehensible”. The same is used in **Judges 13:18**.
 - “Counselor” – This suggests He would have great wisdom.
 - “Mighty God” – Skeptics try to argue that this term does not refer to the God of the universe. Yet the same term is used in **Isaiah 10:21**.
 - “Everlasting Father” – Earthly fathers do not last forever, but our Heavenly Father does!
 - “Prince of Peace” – He will establish true peace after He destroys and judges all that is evil.
- **V.7** – He would have an eternal reign. Unlike earthly kings, He would never be overthrown.

Isaiah 11:1-5 (Conquest)

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - ³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

- **V. 1** - “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse”
 - David’s descendants would be reduced to a mere “stump”.
 - Isaiah had already predicted the destruction of the Northern Kingdom, which happened in his own lifetime.
 - He warned the Southern Kingdom they would face a similar fate if they did not repent. This happened long after Isaiah’s death.
 - A “Branch” would someday grow out of this “stump”.
 - When a branch grows out of a stump, you know the stump still has some life in it.
 - God was promising that He would someday raise up a new King, and He would be the greatest of them all.
 - Other Old Testament prophets referred to the Messiah as a “Branch” (**Jeremiah 23:5; Zechariah 3:8, 6:12**).
- **Vv. 2-5** - These verses answer how this Messiah would reign. He reigns in perfect righteousness.
- “²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”
- He would not judge with his eyes or his ears (these senses can be deceived).
- Rather, He would judge in perfect righteousness and justice.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Romans 5:12-21