

Ahaz Rebuked

Isaiah 7:13 (HCSB)

¹³ *Isaiah said, “Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God?”*

- “house of David”
 - He had addressed Ahaz directly to ask for a sign of God’s provision for Judah
 - Ahaz rejected the sign – would not ask
 - Now, God addresses not only Ahaz – but the entire Kingdom of Ahaz
 - “house of David” – *is* Ahaz – as he *is the seed of David* currently on the throne
 - But, it *also is* the line of David going forth
 - Some might argue he refers to the entire kingdom of Judah with this statement – (I do not think so – but that he refers to the kings in David’s line that he intends to preserve)
- “it is not enough for you to try the patience of men?”
 - Ahaz – whether the statement is for more than him or not – is the hearer
 - He has tried the patience of men in many ways:
 - His war practices will decimate the economy and will practically enslave them to Assyria financially
 - He corrupted Judaism and worshipped idols – frustrating the (few) righteous men of Judah
 - He was so detested that he was not allowed to be buried with the Kings of Israel among the royal tombs

A Sign is Given

Isaiah 7:14-16 (HCSB)

¹⁴ *Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.*

- “therefore”
 - This represents a *change of God’s option*
 - He offered a sign – Ahaz refused
 - “therefore” – because of this – God will step in a provide a sign
- “the Lord himself”
 - Ahaz could have had anything he wanted – just for the asking – to know that God was good on his word
 - He was so arrogant – so oppositional to God – so godless – that even his own ambition and personal lusts could not bring him to ask God for a sign
- “will give you a sign”
 - The Sign
 - God offers his own sign: ¹⁴ ... *The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.*
 - The prophecy of v14

- In Hebrew, “you” has both a singular and plural form, unlike in English, where “you” can refer to a singular person or a group of people.
 - In v14, “you” is plural. It is spoken to the entire House of David, or all of Judah. The sign is for the nation.
 - It is "the Lord will give 'yall' a sign"
 - This is a sign to the nation – not just Ahaz
- “The Virgin”
 - Translations vary using “a virgin” and “the virgin”.
 - In Hebrew, a **definite article (“the” or “a”, for example) finds its use from two possible sources:**
 - The immediate context (something referred to in the same conversation)
 - A principle of previous reference (something well-known to the audience)
 - Since there is no virgin mentioned in the immediate context, the article (“the” or “a” dispute) must refer to a previous reference.
 - The only scriptural previous reference of “virgin giving birth to a son” comes from Genesis 3:15, the seed of woman, one whom is from woman alone, and whom will bash the head of Satan.
 - Thus, this is not a random virgin, but “THE” virgin of previous reference.
 - This is the coming ONE who is to be rendered from the seed of woman (from three weeks ago- the offspring of Eve)
 - Verse 14, then, is a sign for the whole kingdom of Judah (yall), that the kingdom will remain (be protected from destruction by Jerusalem, Aram OR Assyria) until “The virgin” gives birth to a son, called Immanuel.
- “Immanuel”, of course, is literally “God with us”, which is referenced in other scriptures specifically of Messiah (more on that later), further demonstrating this to be a future prophecy.

God's protection of the line of David was promised:

- For Judah – the house of David – was to be the people of “the virgin birth” that was to come: the advent of Messiah

Note About Virgin Birth:

- Hebrew *almah*: Is this a literal virgin birth, or just a young girl?
 - Many contend that this text refers to only a girl- not a virgin, and that the text is not indicative of a virgin birth. This claim is based on the belief that the Hebrew word *almah* should be translated “young girl” instead of virgin.
 - Describing a young girl in Hebrew, three words can be used:
 - *Na’a’rah* – a young girl, which can be a virgin (I Kings 1:2) or not (Ruch 2:6)

- *Betulah* – often infers a virgin, but not always. It is argued that this would have been the best term for Isaiah to use if he meant virgin, but we see that this word is not always used to mean virgin.
 - In Joel 18 – it references a widow
 - In Gen 24:16 – the writer adds in “had never known a man” to clarify the virginity of the object. This demonstrates that the term alone does not positively mean a “virgin”.
 - Judges 21:12 – likewise “had never known a man” is added to clarify
- *Almah*- the term used in Isaiah 7
 - *Almah* means “a young virgin of marriage age”, contrary to those who attempt to say it does not indicate virginity.
 - *Almah* is never used in scripture to indicate a married woman. On this there is no quarrel.
 - *Almah* is used seven times in the Old Testament- each time referencing a virgin, rather than a blanket reference to a woman.
 - Gen 24:43 (Rebekah prior to marriage), Ex 2:8 (Moses sister, Miriam), Psalm 68:25 (in reference to the Royal procession of virgins), SofS 1:3 (of the unmarried maidens), SofS 6:8, Prov 30:18-19 (she is contrasted to the adulteress), Isaiah 7:14 (this verse)
 - Since all other references are for a virgin, so must be Isaiah 7:14.
 - Virgin is the proper translation- in spite of those who reject it.
 - “Virgin” is the only possible translation
 - It is the best translation from the Hebrew term
 - If another term were used, and this were a married woman or an adulteress, how can this be “a sign?”
 - A woman having a son is normal- not a sign.
 - A virgin having a son, is definitely a sign.
- New Testament Confirmation:
 - **Matthew 1:22-23 (HCSB)**
²² Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated “God is with us.”

God says essentially: when you see the virgin I prophesied about in Genesis --- then you will know that I fulfill my Word --- that I am God --- and I will bring Messiah as I have said