

# OVERSHADOWED

## *The Holy Spirit and the Virgin Birth*

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25 , & Luke 1:26-38

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

December 18, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

### **One could accurately say that every birth is unusual.**

Ever observed, ever given birth. Your own birth ... the birth of your child. Miraculous, awe-inspiring. **Unusual Births** ... Ill. Matthew Davis Richter Callahan ... announced by earthquake.

Twins born of a different color. Child born to a 70 year old post-menopausal woman. 23 lbs 12 oz.

### **One BIRTH that tops them all ... The Virgin Birth ...**

Foretold by the Prophet Isaiah, announced to both Joseph and Mary. Celebrated every Christmas.

For too long, we have neglected essential truth upon which our faith rests ... for without the VB we would not have a savior. Without the Immaculate Conception Jesus would not be fully God ... Jesus would have a human father passing on the sin nature transmitted through the seed of Adam, original sin. While the Catholic Church has done a better job with the VB, focusing on Mary... Today, I want us to consider miracle of the VB with a particular focus on the role of HS.

Please open your Bibles... Isaiah 7. **Page 488.**

### **Isaiah 7 Prophecy FORESHADOWED the Virgin Birth ... the Virgin Birth foretold.**

700 years prior to the birth of Jesus. In distress, needing help, waiting for a deliverer? Looking for PEACE shalom, drowning in sea of turmoil; two armies to the north breathing out threats of destruction. Warlords lining up to wage war against King Ahaz (ready to attack Jerusalem ... he is worried).

#### **Read 7:10-14**

God says to Ahaz, "ask for a sign". "I will not". (Ahaz is appearing righteous when he is really wicked). Isaiah says that God will give him a sign (of deliverance) ... a son born of a virgin.

**Sign of deliverance is a son born of a virgin.** WHAT? Impossible ... tops a "golden fleece", an open or closed door, even the appearance of a rainbow, double rainbow or shooting star.

**Ill. Ever worried, asked for a sign of God's deliverance? Stacy in Chicago at 1 am.**

### **Many times, prophecies have both a present and a future fulfillment.**

PRESENT -- **vv. 15ff.** Before this son is mature (age of accountability) Isaiah's prophecy assures Ahaz that the kings he dreads will be laid waste because God is sending a much fiercer king to take them captive. The warlords Ahaz fears now are punks compared to the Assyrians. Trust the sign.

Not sure who the young woman (almah) in Ahaz house was, but she would get married, have a son and in three years (by the time he was weaned) the enemies Ahaz feared would be destroyed. Captured, plundered and laid waste by the Assyrian war machine.

FUTURE – looking forward to VB, Mary who had never known a man but would give birth to a son. Name Immanuel "God with us". Sign for Ahaz, sign for us. Present and future fulfillment.

From the promise of deliverance, to the coming of deliverance, through the SIGN ... the virgin birth. From 700 years before the birth of Christ, to the announcement to Joseph and Mary. The ANGEL explains how this unusual, bizarre birth was going to happen.

### **Matthew 1:18-25 (page 681) The Angel ANNOUNCED the Virgin Birth to Joseph.**

Here he is thinking logically, rationally, the scientific mind. She had to have cheated on him.

Honorable didn't want to hurt her. Could only assume that she had "known a man", in the biblical sense.

Until the angel came in a dream, told him the story and reminded him of the prophecy in Isaiah.

Virgin with child? How can this be? Please explain this to me! Medically impossible. Grocery store checkout tabloids ... "Man gives birth to a child" "Oprah gave birth to an alien."

**"with child through the Holy Spirit" ... "from the Holy Spirit".** Unexplainable, mysterious, third person. Father sent Jesus (stepped down), Jesus was born for purpose, came to reconcile heaven/earth, make the human divine ... HS sent to conceive child who would have the divine nature. AND, to fulfill the prophecy made by Isaiah in 7:14.

**Joseph responded in obedience. Even though he didn't understand. COULDN'T EXPLAIN IT.**

If it comes from God, may not be a logical explanation, but there is always opportunity to respond. All he knew is that the Holy Spirit, the divine person, would conceive the child in her without violating her. And this child would save them ... Save them from what? **Save them from their sins.**

Foreshadowed by Isaiah ... Announced by angel in a dream ...

**III. When God calls us to do something that doesn't make good sense to others, yet being obedient.**

**Linus and Sharon Morris. Unique calling.**

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary in person.

**Luke 1:26-38 (page 723) The Spirit OVERSHADOWED Mary and conceived in her the Christ-child.**

She knew the truth, whatever anyone else believed, she knew she had never known a man, biblical sense. Literally the word virgin in NIV is a translation of "hasn't known a man", never had sex with a man.

**III. Even kids know how babies are born; VIDEO**

Like kids, we try to understand, but our explanations seem to leave the question unanswered.

Such mystery in this, lacking specificity. Not a step-by-step description of what was about to take place.

Yet, her response was like Josephs. She responds in faith and with obedience.

And here, in the Birth of the Messiah, we find the Holy Spirit playing THE major role.

OVERSHADOWED ... HS coming on, resting on, operating in a person. Under divine power and influence.

**All new life comes through the Holy Spirit... The Spirit conceives the life of God in us.**

Born again ... Nicodemus.

John 3:3-7 (NIV84) <sup>3</sup>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." <sup>4</sup>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" <sup>5</sup>

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup>You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

Sing ... Prayer at Christmas ... Be born in us today ... born-again, born-anew. HS is the power of God to enter our lives and conceive the life of Christ in us. Dry bones, coming alive as Spirit breathes on us.

**Titus 3:4-7 (NIV84) <sup>4</sup>But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup>he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup>so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.**

**Conclusion:**

HS came upon her, overshadowed her without violating her, in order to conceive in her the life of God.

HS comes upon us, overshadows us, without violating us, in order to conceive in us the life of God.

This Spirit who conceived the virgin birth, is the Spirit who PROMISES TO bring life to us today.

- Foreshadowed ... Immanuel ... God with us, came to live in us.
- Announced ... Jesus ... to save us from our sins.
- Overshadowed ... Send His Spirit to conceive new life in all who believe.

The best gift ... Jesus is alive in me. Immaculate conception. New nature conceived by the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit be born in us this season. Not just stand and watch, but invite in.