

# The Virgin Shall Conceive

*Promise: the birth of Immanuel is the birth of our salvation*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

(Fourth Sunday in Advent, 12/18/22)

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet. – v. 22*

**Lead In** – Is there sufficient marvel at childbirth? Certainly, among the expecting parents there is. But in culture in general? And note, I did say childbirth! Pay close attention to the description of the pregnant state of Mary. “She was found to be with child.” The “child” is the missing person in the rhetoric coming from the Pro-Abortion Rights Camp. But hopefully we know that procreation, PRO-CREATION, is special, a blessing, miraculous beyond imagining. That is true in each child’s case. But one birth is the most special of all...

## I. Women and Childbearing from Genesis 3 and On

- A. The first hint of our salvation. The proto-gospel...
- B. Did Eve think Cain might be it. He wasn’t...
- C. Seth, a family, a tribe, a king ... Mary mother of God!

## II. The Clear Prophecy of Isaiah 700 Years Before

- A. All OT prophecies, partial with fulfillment in Christ...
- B. Immanuel. “What if God Was One of Us?”...
- C. God has become one of us! Beginning as embryo...

## III. In Year A Putting Ourselves In Position of Joseph

- A. Being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame...
- B. Born of the Virgin Mary is nonnegotiable article of faith!
- C. It is a question of honoring God’s name, 1<sup>st</sup> Petition...

**Parting Shot** – We seem to be working with two names given the child born of the Virgin Mary. But in the case of *Immanuel*, as in *they shall call his name Immanuel*, this seems to be functioning as an appellation or a label of sorts. But *Jesus* is the personal name, a common one by the way, by which he is referred and spoken to. Taken together, it tells you everything you need to know. God with us Saves Us. This is the significance of the extra special birth we are about to...

**Ge 3:15** “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

**Ge 4:1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.”

**1Ti 2:15** Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control.

**Is 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Jn 5:39** You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

*What if God was one of us / Just a slob like one of us / Just a stranger on the bus; tryna make his way home? – Chorus to recording made by Joan Osborne in 1995.*

## Matthew 1:18-25 ESV

*The Birth of Jesus Christ*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Ph 2:6-8** [Christ Jesus] who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

In **Mt 23:23** Jesus called “justice and mercy and faithfulness” the weightier matters of the law. How can justice and mercy be held together? Justice is incompatible with permissiveness, but not with mercy. But mercy does come with a cost! One that God’s bears.

**SC** *I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.*

**SC** *God’s name is hallowed whenever his Word is taught in its truth and purity and we as children of God live in harmony with it. Help us to do this, heavenly Father! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to the Word of God dishonors God’s name among us. Keep us from doing this, heavenly Father!*

**The Name ‘Jesus’** - Y’shua in Hbr or Aramaic. Often rendered in English as *Joshua*. But the Greek *lēsous* lends itself to the English *Jesus*. The meaning of the name is *Savior*.

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## **Fourth Sunday In Advent**

**Asst. Minister:** We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

*The first four candles of the Advent wreath are lighted.*

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