

(Matthew 1:22-25)

I BELIEVE...

- who was born of the Virgin Mary

“**All this (vs. 18-21) took place to FULFILL what was spoken...**” (1:22)

God > you > sign = (**origin**/information)

virgin > conception > birth = (**method**/process)

male child > name = (**identity**/purpose)

FLASHBACK (Isaiah 7)

DANGER: War; threat to annihilate the house/line of David (750 B.C.)

DISCLOSURE: “It will not happen” (vs. 7)

DARE: Have faith! (vs. 9) Ask for evidence! (vs. 10)

DOUBLE TALK: “Don’t want to test the Lord!”

DECLARATION: Evidence will be given, regardless! God is WITH us!

(Here and Now evidence AND Far Distant evidence... two babies)

a) Mahar Shalal – enemies soon to be destroyed (7:15 – 8:4)

b) Immanuel – TOGETHER... God and Us (7:14)

Why all the fuss and fanaticism over “virgin birth?”

1. NT = **absolute** and unequivocal (Mt. 1:18-20, Lk 1:26-37, 3:23)
2. OT = “**seed** of the **woman**” battles Satan (Gen. 3:15, Gal. 4:4, Rev. 12:17)
3. OT word (almah) always **understood** and **translated** as “virgin.”
4. OT picture of **God dwelling** in a **tent** is a description of Jesus (Jn. 1:14)
(This would not be an accurate picture if Jesus was a normal human baby!)
5. This is the **only explanation** for the sinless nature and Deity of Jesus.
(From Mary the baby received blood and tissue, but the implanted nature was that of God.)

IM/ MANU/ EL

- *Emotionally.* **Assurance** of his **presence** in plenty/poverty, home/exile, suffering/health
- *Spiritually.* **tempted** by sin, **overwhelmed** by doubt, **consumed** by bitterness