

## The divine forecast

Signs are part of our lives. There are different kinds of signs, the most prominent being road signs. Some are for informational purposes, others are for safety. Some signs point us in the right direction so that we know which way we need to go to reach our destination. God gave us many signs of his incarnation so that we would not be taken by surprise when it happened. The fulfilment of those signs gives us a greater assurance that it is God who is at work in what is happening.

Isaiah 7: 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 9: 6 – 7 For 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. Of the greatness 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.

### 1) A sign from the Lord

- The Lord himself will give you a sign.
  - The reflexive pronoun himself tells us that He is the initiator and executor of what He's going to do.
- In other words when you see this happening you will know that it is from the Lord. He foretold it.
- When something out of the ordinary happens we all wonder whether it was from God or not.
  - When the angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus to Mary she was greatly troubled and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. (Luke 1: 29).
  - She was also confused over the fact that she was going to have a son as she was still a virgin.
  - When she was convinced that it was a message from God she then submitted herself to God saying, "May it be to me as you have said." (Luke 1: 38)
- There are times when God will have daunting expectation on us that we will question whether they are really from Him or not.
  - Some things may seem really out of the ordinary like:
    - the virgin birth.
    - Abraham leaving his home and family to go to another country
    - Noah building an Ark
    - Moses going to set the Israelites free from Egypt
- God often does things out of the ordinary so that the glory goes to Him and not to us.
- How then will we know if something is from the Lord or not?
  - Does the Word of God state or confirm it?
  - Is it in line with the heart and character of God as stated in the scriptures?
  - I recently had a chat with a man who was in a transition in His life and wasn't sure what God wanted Him to do. He was reaching out to non-Christians as they arrived at the airport. I said that we need to do the obvious as its stated in the scriptures and what's on our hearts when our hearts are submitted to Him. The devil certainly won't put it on someone's heart to share the Gospel with non-Christians as they arrive at the airport. God doesn't always use us out of the ordinary but He will only do so when He sees fit to do so.
  - Another Christian leader once stated that we should not lust after the supernatural. We should long after God and if the supernatural happens we praise God for that.

## 2) A miraculous birth

- The sign was this: a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son.
- When has a virgin ever given birth to a child before, or after?
- God was certainly doing something out of the ordinary, something supernatural here.
  - Things are only supernatural to us. To God they are perfectly natural because He is limitless in what He can do.
- This was God's divine forecast of Him entering into this world as a man.
  - This was a way to say that He himself will be born a natural birth from a woman.
  - He will come and experience humanity from childhood to adulthood.
  - He will be vulnerable in every way.
- He was to come through a woman only, and not man
  - This was to be a fulfilment of the seed of woman that would crush the serpent's head as prophesied in Genesis 3: 15.
  - The seed of man was tainted by sin from the fall of Adam.
  - This offspring of the virgin will not be tainted by sin in any way. He will not be the offspring of a man.
- Even John testified of Jesus supremacy when they were both in the wombs of their mothers.
  - Luke 1: 41 – 45 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

## 3) God with us

- She will call him Immanuel, which means God with us
- The divine forecast of God entering the world of humanity was very clear. No interpretation is needed.
- God Himself will be born of a virgin.
- Isaiah gives other traits that only belong to God to this son that was to be born in chapter 9.
  - Isaiah 9: 6 – 7 For 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. Of the greatness 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.
- The traits of God
  - Wonderful Counsellor – a name that Jesus calls the Holy Spirit in John 14
  - Mighty God – a reference to the son being God
  - Everlasting Father – the name that Jesus always used when He spoke about God.
  - Prince of Peace – God is called the Lord of all peace (2 Thessalonians 3: 16)
- Jesus didn't come to show us the way to God. He is God revealed.
- God, in Jesus, is worthy to be worshipped, submitted to, obeyed and loved.