

UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS Pt 1

“Unexpected Hope”

Matthew 1:22-23 NIV

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

THE PROPHECIES

Isaiah 7:1-2, 10-13 NIV

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

2 Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

13 Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also?”

- The context of Isaiah 7 is the promise of God's Presence when it doesn't look like it.
- When we don't feel God's Presence we tend to take matters into our own hands.

Prophecies are not given to prove something beyond a reasonable doubt, but rather to reveal.

UNEXPECTED

For something to be UNEXPECTED, it infers that something was expected.

How does God reveal Himself to us?

His Salvation is revealed in Immanuel, God with us.

In order to save us, God came to be with us— to save us is to be with us.

What are you expecting?

Matthew 1:18-25 NIV

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

GOD’S ENTRANCE

- The Way God does this is UNIQUE.
- The Way God does this is PERSONAL.

DREAMS & DISRUPTIONS

- He’s going to get back to his life before Mary.
- He’s going to settle down in Bethlehem.
- He’s going to settle down in Egypt.
- He’s going to settle down in Israel.

WHAT DO WE SEE?

The point isn't to prove something, but rather to reveal something. What is it?

- This is God's Salvation
- This is God's Presence.

And the two are related... in fact, they are bound up in the Messiah.

The Salvation that Jesus would bring is return us to life for which we have been created. He would deliver us from the death that comes from Life Apart from God.

LIFE WITH GOD

God with Us is the invitation for Life with God.