

IMMANUEL PROPHECIES ISAIAH 7-12



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Old Testament is Not Messianic

“It is impossible to establish that any passage in its original literary and historical context must or even should be understood as portending a future messianic figure.”

Tremper Longman III, “The Messiah: Explorations in the Law and Writings,” in *The Messiah in the Old and New Testaments*, ed. S. E. Porter (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2007), p. 13

Old Testament is Not Messianic

“The early church applied such texts to Jesus because of their conviction about his identity. The conviction about his identity did not derive from the Old Testament. They found Jesus and then saw how the Scriptures fit with him.”

Kyle Snodgrass, “The Use of the Old Testament in the New,” in *The Right Doctrine from the Wrong Texts?* ed. G.K. Beale (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994), p. 39.

Old Testament is Not Messianic

“How can we identify a passage as messianic if the Old Testament offers no such support for such an interpretation either conceptually or textually, and the New testament suggests no fulfillment connections?”

J.H. Walton, *Genesis*, NIVAC (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing Co., 2001), p. 233. The quote questions the classic messianic interpretation of Genesis 3:15.

THE EVANGELICAL DEPARTURE FROM OT MESSIANIC INTERPRETATION

“There is a growing movement by evangelicals away from interpreting the Hebrew Bible (our OT) as a messianic book ... Although evangelical scholarship still recognizes that there is something messianic about the Hebrew Bible, for the most part it sees it as a story that finds its climax in Jesus, not as predictions that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled. As such, it is becoming quite common to state that biblical authors did not have an intentional messianic meaning.”

Michael Rydelnik, *The Messianic Hope: Is the Hebrew Bible Really Messianic?* NAC Studies in Bible & Theology 9 (Nashville: B&H Academic, 2010), pp. 3-4.

THEMATIC CONTEXT: ISAIAH 7-12

- 7:14 Sign: Immanuel ("God is with us")
- 8:8 Land of Immanuel
- 9:6-7 Divine Child = King
- 10:21 Remnant Returns to Mighty God
- 11:1-9 Branch of Jesse will rule in Peace & Righteousness
- 12:1-6 Yahweh...is with us

HISTORICAL ISSUES



THE COURSE OF THE ASSYRIAN CONQUEST

- Imminent destruction of Aram and Israel (Isa 8:1-4)
- Assyrian progress through Israel and Judah (Isa 8:5-7)



IMMEDIATE THREAT

7:1-2

- Rezin of Damascus (Syria)
- Pekah of Samaria (Israel)
- Alliance vs. Ahaz (Judah)
- Threat: Remove and Replace Ahaz with son of Tabeel = Cut off Davidic Line

IMMEDIATE CONTEXT

7:3



Isaiah takes his young son **Shear-Jashab** ("remnant shall return") to meet Ahaz at the upper pool. cf. 36:2

PROPHETIC PROMISE

7:4-9

“Be careful, be quiet, do not fear...It shall not stand...not come to pass”

REFUSAL OF THE SIGN

Ask a Sign (πιλ oth)... deep as Sheol or as high as Heaven-implies miraculous sign.

Ahaz

Ch. 7

Threat-Syria and Ephraim

Promise: Not Succeed

Prediction: Kings
Removed

Location: Upper Pool

Sign: Rejected

Hezekiah

Ch. 36-37

Threat- Assyria

Promise: Not Enter City

Prediction: King
Removed

Location: Upper Pool

Sign: Accepted

IMMANUEL PROPHECY

“Behold, **the virgin** shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”

ESV

INTERPRETIVE VIEWS

1. **Messianic**: Virgin Birth of Christ
2. **Non-Messianic**: Birth of a child in Isaiah's Day
3. **Dual Fulfillment**: Both: Immediate and Ultimate

NON-MESSIANIC VIEW

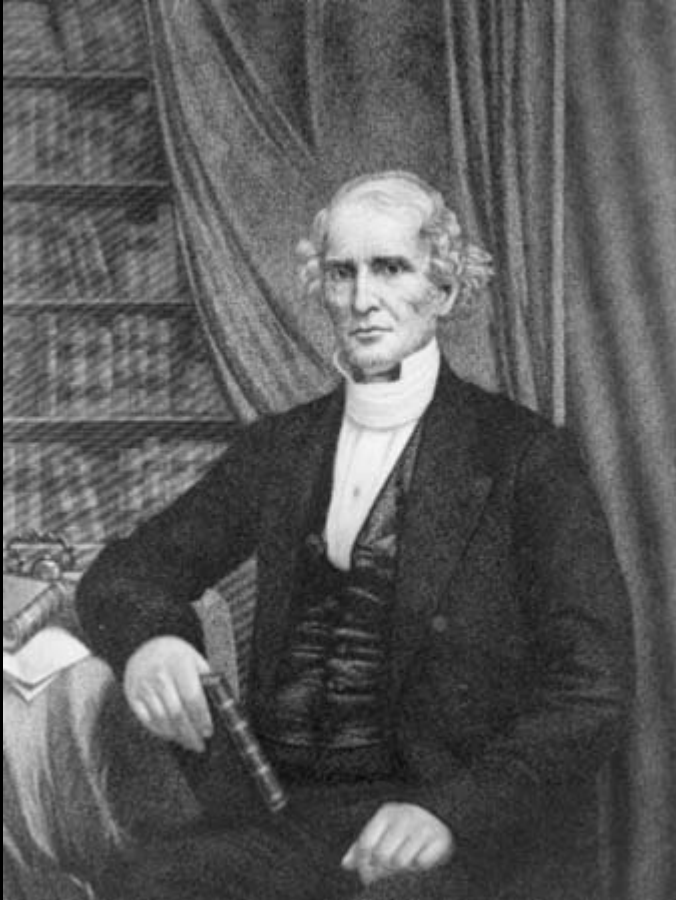
1. Refers to any woman and **any child**
2. Refers to birth of **Hezekiah**
3. Refers to birth of **Isaiah's Son**

CALVIN'S RESPONSE



"As to those who think it was Isaiah's son, it is an utterly frivolous conjecture; for we do not read that a deliverer would be raised up from the seed of Isaiah." p. 107

DUAL FULFILLMENT VIEW



Albert Barnes (1840).
Child of the prophet
about to be born:
Maher-shalal-hashbaz.
Suggest Isaiah's first
wife died and about
to remarry. Admits
prophecy not
completely fulfilled.
(p. 165)

THE MOTHER

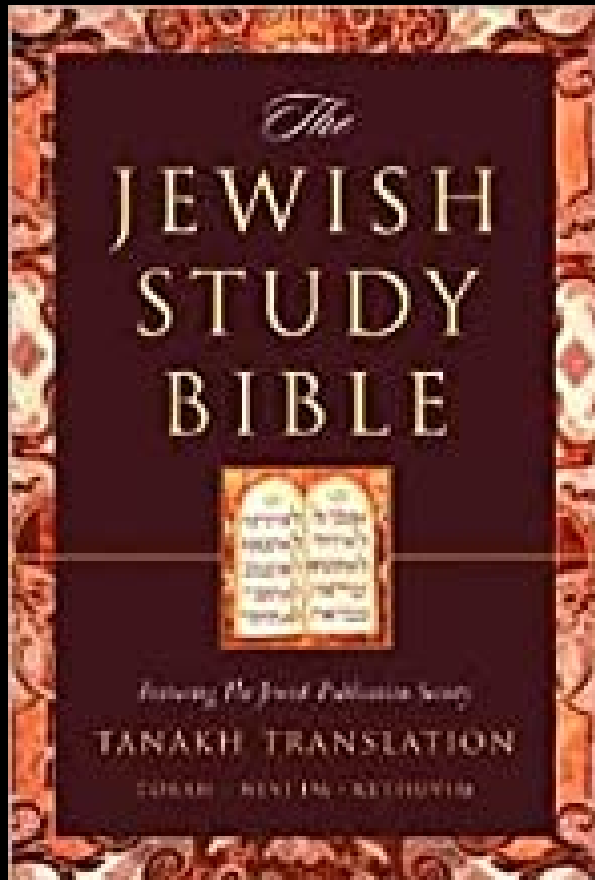
1. Wife of King Ahaz
2. Wife of Isaiah
3. New Wife of Isaiah
4. Virgin in King's Harem
5. **Virgin Mary**

THE VIRGIN

עַלְמָה (ALMAH)

- Unique Hebrew word for “virgin” (8 times in OT).
- Never used of married woman
- A young woman (maiden) of marriageable age who is a virgin.

JEWISH STUDY BIBLE



- “ All modern scholars, however, agree that the Heb. merely denotes a young woman of marriageable age...whether a virgin or not.” p. 799

VIRGIN

בְּתוּלָה (BETHULAH)



THE PROPHECY OF
ISAIAH

An Introduction & Commentary

J. Alec Motyer

- More common but less precise.
- Motyer: Only 21 of 50 definitively mean virgin (p. 84). “Without a descriptive clause added bethulah does not convey a precise meaning.”
- Twice used of “young widow” (Deut. 22:19; Joel 1:8).

SHALL CONCEIVE

(הָרָה HARAH)



Edward J. Young

- A feminine adjective with an active participle (“bearing”). Denotes present tense: “Behold the **pregnant virgin** bearing a son”

IMMANUEL

(עִמָּנוּ אֵל "GOD WITH US")

1. Hezekiah
2. Maher-shalal-hashbaz
3. No one in particular
4. **Jesus** (Matthew 1:23)

MATTHEW'S QUOTATION

Matthew 1:23

- Greek: παρθένος
Parthenos
- Always means "virgin"
- LXX translates almah as
parthenos

MICAH 5:2-3

- Isaiah's contemporary predicts **place** of Messiah's birth.
- "She who is in labor" (present tense) shall give birth to "ruler in Israel" whose origin is "from antiquity" (miggedem) "from **eternity**" (olam)

IMMEDIATE RELEVANCE

- Removal of the threat

Child in v. 16

1. Ideal child
2. Hezekiah
3. Maher-shalal-hashbaz
4. Shear Jashub

CHAPTER 8

GOD IS WITH US

1. Birth of Maher-shalal-hashbaz "spoil speeds, prey hastens"
2. Damascus and Samaria will fall
3. Assyria will come vs. Israel (722 BC)
4. Assyria will threaten Judah "your land **O Immanuel**" (8:8)
5. But "God is with us" (Immanuel).

CHAPTER 9

- Great Light in **Galilee** vs. 1-2 cf. Matthew 4:13-16; Luke 1:79
- **Promised King**: “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder...on the throne of David...forevermore (meatah olam)

DIVINE CHILD 9:6

- Wonderful Counselor

"פֶּלֶא יוֹעֵץ" *pele yoets*

- **Mighty God**

"אֵל גִּבּוֹר" *el gibbor*

- Everlasting Father

"אָבִי-עַד" *abi ad*

- Prince of Peace

"שַׂר-שָׁלוֹם" *sar shalom*

CHAPTER 10

- Assyria will be judged with a “wasting sickness” (cf. ch. 36-37)
- Remnant of Israel will return (Shear Jashub) to the “mighty God” (el gibbor) (Vs. 21)

RIGHTEOUS BRANCH

CHAPTER 11

- **Prediction:** Tree of Davidic Line will be cut down and a **shoot** (*choter*) will spring from stump (*geza'*) of Jesse and a **branch** (*netser*) from his roots.
- **Messiah** is both the root and branch of the Davidic Line.

ANOINTED MESSIAH

- Coming King is anointed by the **Spirit** of the Lord (*Ruach Yahweh*) and endowed with His gifts. "Counsel" and "Might" are used in 9:6 to describe the coming King.

CHAPTER 12

Closing Crescendo

1. "Give thanks" v. 4
2. "Sing praises" v. 5
3. "Shout for joy" v. 6

Holy One of Israel is "with us"