

## THE TWO SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS

### Introduction:

- A. There are signs that the Christmas season is upon us and a stranger who knew nothing of Christmas would ask what do these mean?
  - 1. Decorations
  - 2. Christmas music
  - 3. Nativities
- B. There are two signs given in the Bible that point to the birth of Christ
  - 1. The sign of a v\_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 1:18-23)
  - 2. The sign of a b\_\_\_\_\_ wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger (Lk 2:8-12)
  - 3. These are still signs for us today and should give us a meaningful celebration of Christ's birth.

### They were 1\_\_\_\_\_ signs

- A. Matt 1:23 quotes Is 7:14 where God gives the sign to Ahaz

*Behold! A virgin will be with child and will bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel, which means God with us.*

- 1. The context of the prophecy in Isaiah
  - a. Judah is being i\_\_\_\_\_ by Israel and Syria (Is 7:1)
  - b. The Lord sends the prophet Isaiah to tell king Ahaz that Judah will not be c\_\_\_\_\_ (Is 7:4,7)
  - c. The Messiah must come from J\_\_\_\_\_ and will reign forever (Chapters 8-12 in Isaiah)
  - d. The Lord gives a sign that the above would happen.
- 2. The meaning of the prophecy
  - a. "Behold" means to take n\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. "Sign" refers to something d\_\_\_\_\_, unusual.
  - c. "Virgin" means an un\_\_\_\_\_ woman, but can also mean one who has never been intimate with a man – which would Ahaz consider a sign?
    - 1) How many unmarried women became pregnant? (it happened all the time to p\_\_\_\_\_)
    - 2) How many virgins became pregnant without losing their virginity?
- 3. The lowliness of this sign
  - a. It drew the attention of J\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 1:19)
  - b. It drew the attention of the Jewish community – rumors spread claiming Jesus was a S\_\_\_\_\_, born of fornication (Jn 8:41)

- B. Luke 2:12 records an angel giving a sign to the s\_\_\_\_\_ so that they can identify what baby is Christ, the Lord.
1. What is a manger? – a f\_\_\_\_\_ trough
  2. What is the significance of a baby be w\_\_\_\_\_? – unwanted babies were thrown into a garbage dump alive and naked.
  3. The lowliness of the sign
    - a. One would expect God's Messiah to be born in a h\_\_\_\_\_ place, like a palace.
    - b. Many babies were born in high places but only one was born in a feeding trough.
- C. The uniqueness of the signs
1. O\_\_\_\_\_ signs
  2. O\_\_\_\_\_ signs

### **They were n\_\_\_\_\_ signs**

- A. Mary c\_\_\_\_\_ by the power of the Holy Spirit was essential (Matt 1:20)
1. To produce a God-man – the word Immanuel means God \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  2. To produce an offspring that was p\_\_\_\_\_, unaffected by Adam's sin (God's perfection always overrides imperfection).
- B. To fulfill p\_\_\_\_\_ of the Savior being Christ, the Lord (Luke 2:11)
1. Micah 5:2 – born in B\_\_\_\_\_
    - a. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to r\_\_\_\_\_ for the tax census (Luke 2:1,4,5)
    - b. The tax register was an official r\_\_\_\_\_ of Mary and Joseph's presence in Bethlehem.
  2. D\_\_\_\_\_ of David
    - a. Jer 23:5 – a righteous branch will come from David who will reign as k\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. 2 Sam 7:16; Ps 132:11 – God will establish David's throne f\_\_\_\_\_ through a specific descendent.

### **Conclusion**

- A. These signs point to the truth (point the world to these signs)
1. That there is only \_\_\_\_\_ Savior
  2. That the Savior is J\_\_\_\_\_
- B. We have not just something to celebrate this Christmas season, but someone, Christ Jesus our Lord.