



# Come & See What God Has Done

Greeting O Favored One

Dec. 15

When we consider prophecies of the Messiah, we must consider one of the most poignant in the book of Isaiah. This instance of God speaking through the prophet Isaiah gives us specifics that are difficult, at best, to ignore. I marvel at how sometimes God will share his will in a direct manner, and at other times, He is not as straightforward. But then again, He is in charge and knows best. We look at the prophecy found in the book of Isaiah 7:10-14. Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

The sign from the Lord that a virgin will conceive and bear a son is specific—an incredible feat for a human, but not for God. Through God, all things are possible. This is one of the crucial prophecies many in Old Testament times would look to for confirmation when a person claims to be the Messiah. Others were regarding the place of birth or the Messiah coming out of Egypt. But this one would indeed be an indication of divine intervention.





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When we look for the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14, we need look no further than Luke 1:26-35. In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel "How will this be, since I am a virgin." And the angel answered her "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

God chose a teenage girl for the fulfillment of the Isaiah 7:14 prophecy. We might consider Mary to be an unlikely candidate. She was what one would think unremarkable—not born of nobility or prominence in the day's society. A simple, ordinary person. But obviously, a person of great faith. That is all that God asks of us: to have confidence in him. He asks you and me to believe that He will fulfill His promises. And through that faith, we will see what the Lord has done for us in the Lord's time.

Leaning on Jesus  
Forest Holmes

