

The Case for Christmas—Part 4
THE FINGERPRINT EVIDENCE: DID JESUS—AND JESUS ALONE—
MATCH THE IDENTITY OF THE MESSIAH?

- I. **The Messiah Will be Born of a V_____** (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:22-23)
- a. Most Old Testament prophecies have both a Near and a Far fulfillment.
 - i. One was usually near the life of the prophet, proving that he was genuine.
 - ii. The other is usually seen in the far distant future, especially surrounding Jesus' first or second Advent
 - b. Isaiah's near fulfillment most likely involved a virgin that was there in the room, quite possibly his wife who is called a prophetess and bares him a son whose early life saw the destruction of Syria and Israel by the Assyrians before they could destroy Judah (cf. Isa. 8:1-4)
 - c. Isaiah's far fulfillment is the birth of Jesus Christ to the Virgin Mary.
 - i. **virgin = almah** (עלמה) = "young woman" or "maiden" (cf. Gen. 24:43, Ex. 2:8, Ps. 68:25, Song of Solomon 1:3, 6:8; Isa. 7:14)
 - ii. **virgin = parthenos** (παρθένος) = "young woman," "betrothed," "unmarried," or "girl" (cf. Matt. 1:23; 25:1, 7, 11; Luke 1:27; Acts 21:9; 1 Cor. 7:25, 28, 34, 36, 37, 38; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 14:4)
 1. For both terms virginity is assumed because of the age and/or marital status of the girl/young woman
 - iii. Matthew uses the phrase "**before they came together**" and in Luke Mary uses "**I know not a man?**" (**ginōskō** / γινώσκω = "to know") and both were euphemisms for intimate human relations (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:34)
 - d. Jesus' birth from a virgin fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and is another piece of fingerprint evidence that He is the Messiah

- II. **The Messiah Will be Born in B_____** (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:1-2)
- a. **Bethlehem** = "house of bread"
 - b. **Ephrathah** = "fruitful" = Located in Judah, NOT in Galilee
 - c. This One the Messiah will be directly from God; in fact He will literally be the eternal God
 - d. The Magi's visit and chief priests and scribes research confirmed that the Messiah be born in: **Bethlehem of Judea = Bethlehem Ephrathah**
 - e. Jesus' birth in Bethlehem fulfilled Micah's prophecy and is another piece of fingerprint evidence that He is the Messiah (John 1:14)
- III. **The Messiah Will be Born with S_____** (Jer. 31:15; Matt. 2:16-18)
- a. Jeremiah's near fulfillment took place not long after he wrote when Judah was fully conquered by the Babylonians.
 - i. **Ramah** = "high place" and it refers to where the captives were taken before being sent into exile.
 - ii. **Rachel** crying represented the nation of Israel since she had given birth to both Benjamin from the southern kingdom and Joseph whose son Ephraim was in the north.
 - b. Herod slaughtered all the children in and around Bethlehem that could have been born around the time of the Messiah.
 - i. **Ramah** = the tomb of Jacob's beloved **Rachal**
 - ii. And this time her **WEeping AND GREAT MOURNING** was for the innocent children massacred at Jesus' birth.
 - c. This sorrow at Jesus' birth would follow Him all the way to Calvary's Cross!