

Devotion #1- The Impossible King

This season our devotions will be centered around prophecies regarding King Jesus from the book of Isaiah. Prophecies are predictions that come true many years later. These prophecies prove that Jesus is the true King of the world. The book of Isaiah was written 700 years before Jesus was born. Can you imagine predicting something 700 years before it happened? That's impossible! God does this to prove that Jesus is the long-awaited King!

Isaiah 7:14-15 reads, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good." This prophecy contains two predictions: First- The future King will be born as a miracle and will be called Immanuel. 700 years later, Jesus is born miraculously. Mathew 1:18, 22-23 reads, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call him Immanuel." There is only one person in history that is born miraculously through the Holy Spirit. His name is Jesus. They also called him Immanuel- meaning "God is with us." This is an impossible prediction that could only come true through God.

The second prediction is that this boy will eat curds and honey. This is the food of poor and impoverished families. This king will not be born in a palace made with gold. He will not eat fine food or be recognized as royalty. Instead, he will be a poor child with little food and no recognition. Does anyone know where Jesus was born? Let me tell you, he was born in a barn, with animals surrounding him, because his family was full of shame and poverty. His father was a carpenter, a trade that was recognized as lower class. Can you believe this? The great king of the world was born as a peasant. Jesus fulfills the prediction that this King would not be a normal king. Instead, a poor and insignificant man would change the world.

These are two impossible predictions that came true. First, Jesus would be born in a miraculous way and be given a special name. Second, Jesus would be born into poverty, as a second-class citizen. Be thankful that Jesus fulfilled these amazing prophecies predicted 700 years before they happened!

Questions to consider:

1. What are the odds of two different prophecies both being fulfilled 700 years after they were made?
2. What makes these prophecies unusual for a future king?
3. Jesus fulfilled two very specific prophecies. How does this knowledge help strengthen your belief in Christ?