

# Narrative Flow of Isaiah ch. 7

- (1) Historical situation of a military threat (v. 1)
- (2) People’s response of fear to that threat (v. 2)
- (3) Prophecy of Deliverance (vv. 3-9b)
  - \* given to alleviate the fear re: invading armies
  - \* prophecy as a whole is positive: Aram & Israel will be defeated
- + Warning (v. 9b) to have faith
- (4) Offering a “sign” (10-11)
  - \* purpose is to confirm the truthfulness of the Prophecy of Deliverance
  - \* sign is given to assure that the prophecy will come to pass
- (5) Ahaz’s refusal to choose a “sign” (v. 12)
- (6) Yahweh gives a “sign” (vv. 13-17)
  - + further elaboration on the “sign” (vv. 18-25)
    - \*meaning of sign is now both good news & bad news

“Good news”	“Bad news”
vv. 15-16, 21-22	vv. 17-20, 23-25
▶ God will be with the people, & he will faithfully carry out the initial prophecy (vv. 3-9a) of deliverance from the two threatening kingdoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 733 B.C.: Damascus is captured by Assyria</li> <li>• 721 B.C.: N. Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria</li> </ul>	▶ Due to Ahaz’s lack of faith, the Assyrians (to whom Ahaz appealed for help) will come into Judah & decimate the land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• c. 701 B.C.: Judah invaded by Assyrians</li> </ul>

## Giving of the Sign (vv. 10-17) (to confirm the message of deliverance)

10 And again Yahweh spoke to Ahaz, saying:  
 11 “Ask for yourself a **sign** from Yahweh, your God.  
 Make-(it)-deep to Sheol [Underworld],  
 or make (it) high to (the) Height [Heavenlies].”

12 And Ahaz said:  
 “I will not ask,  
 and I will not test Yahweh.”

13 And he said:  
 “Hear, now, O house of David.  
 Is it (too) small-a-thing for you [plural] to weary men,  
 that you weary also my God?”

14 Therefore the Lord,  
 he will give to you [plural] a **sign**:

Behold, **the young woman/virgin** **is/will be** pregnant  
 and is bearing a son,

and she will call his name “Immanu-el” [“with us is God”].

15 **Curd and honey, he will eat**

16 For **before the boy knows to refuse evil and to choose good,**  
 the ground will be forsaken  
 which you fear on account of its two kings.

17 Yahweh will bring on you,  
 and upon your people,  
 and upon your father’s house,  
**days** which have not come since  
 that **day** Ephraim turned-away from Judah  
 --(that is) the King of Assyria.

What is the “Sign”?
1) Manner of Birth?
2) Name?
3) Food Eaten?
4) Time Element?

*The FULFILLMENT of a Predictive Prophecy*

**1) SINGULAR FULFILLMENT**



i.e., **ONLY ONE**  
**(exclusive) Fulfillment**

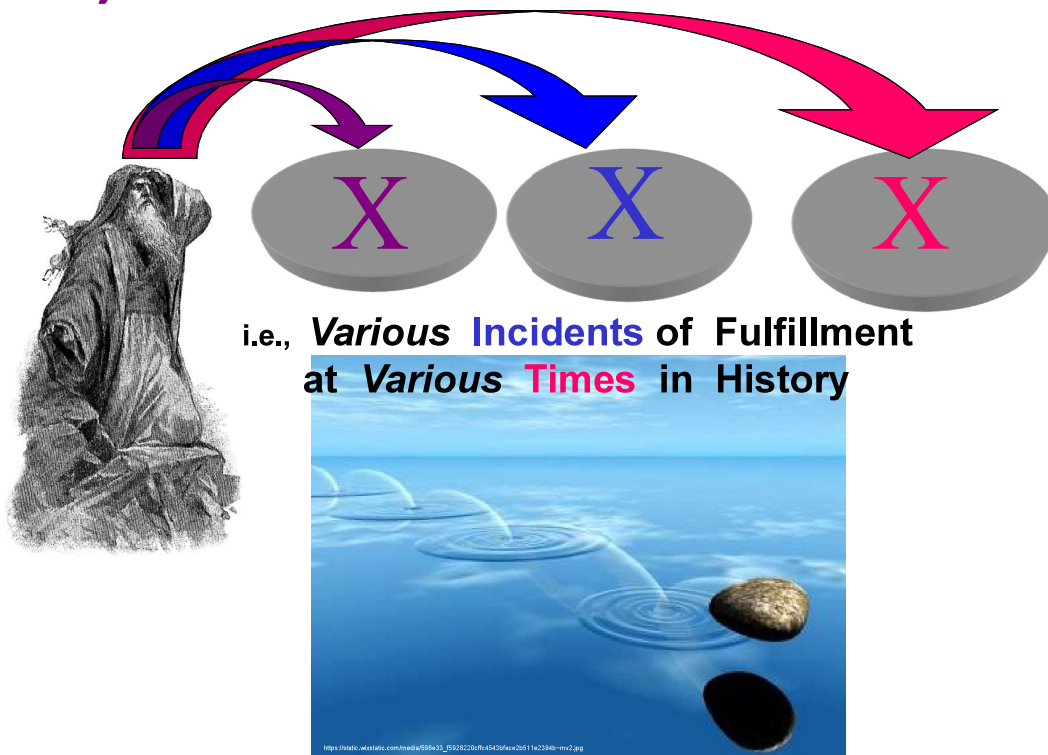
**How/When will the “Sign” be Fulfilled?**

(1) Exclusively in one birth:

“Either / Or”

(a) Child born at that Time	or		(b) Jesus		
<p>▶ vv. 14-17 are understood as speaking of the same child</p> <p>▶ <b>Function:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present-circumstance-oriented, speaking of the then immanent future</li> <li>• “child-sign” serves as a Time-Indicator (vv. 15-17)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ the two Nations will be defeated by the time the boy “knows how to refuse evil &amp; choose good”</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>▶ Differentiates between the “sign” of v. 11 &amp; that of v. 14</p>		<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p>v. 11: Sign offered to Ahaz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relates to those Present circumstances (but because he refuses,</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p>a differently focused Sign is given</p> <p>v. 14: Sign given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relates to the distant Future = Jesus</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>v. 11: Sign offered to Ahaz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relates to those Present circumstances (but because he refuses,</li> </ul>	<p>a differently focused Sign is given</p> <p>v. 14: Sign given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relates to the distant Future = Jesus</li> </ul>
<p>v. 11: Sign offered to Ahaz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relates to those Present circumstances (but because he refuses,</li> </ul>	<p>a differently focused Sign is given</p> <p>v. 14: Sign given</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relates to the distant Future = Jesus</li> </ul>				
<p><b>Who is the “child”?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ son of King Ahaz (Hezekiah or another son)</li> <li>◆ Isaiah’s son of ch. 8</li> <li>◆ an unspecified, anonymous child born at that time in Judah</li> </ul>	<p>▶ Requires separating v. 14 from vv. 15-17</p>		<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p>v. 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speaks of a boy born in the Distant Future = Jesus</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p>vv. 15-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speaks of a boy living in that Present-time</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>v. 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speaks of a boy born in the Distant Future = Jesus</li> </ul>	<p>vv. 15-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speaks of a boy living in that Present-time</li> </ul>
<p>v. 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speaks of a boy born in the Distant Future = Jesus</li> </ul>	<p>vv. 15-17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• speaks of a boy living in that Present-time</li> </ul>				

The **FULFILLMENT** of a Predictive Prophecy  
**2) MULTIPLE FULFILLMENTS**



**2) Dual-Fulfilment**

**“Both / And”**

1) Child born at that Time	&	2) Jesus
<p>▶ <b>Manner of Birth</b> (“the young woman is/will be pregnant &amp; is bearing a child”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v 14a is an introductory statement &amp; not part of the focus of the “sign”</li> <li>♦ for the present fulfilment, the “young woman” need not specifically indicate a “virgin”</li> </ul>		<p>The focus of the Sign is v.14: (see Matthew 1:18-26)</p> <p>▶ <b>Manner of Birth</b> (“a virgin will be pregnant &amp; bear a child”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>focus is on Mary being a “virgin”</li> </ul>
<p>The focus of the “Sign’ is:</p> <p>▶ <b>Name</b> (“Immanuel”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>symbolizes the positive aspect of God being with Judah in the midst of the military threat from Aram &amp; Israel</li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>Foods Eaten</b> (“curds &amp; honey”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>indicates the conditions that will prevail due to the “negative” aspects of the prophecy of the devastation of the agricultural economy by the Assyrians</li> </ul>		<p>▶ <b>Name</b> (“Immanuel”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>child embodies God’s presence (child is God, who is with us)</li> <li>&amp; indicates deliverance (also in the name “Jesus” = “He will save”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ but “salvation” is understood in the spiritual sense, not in the sense of military deliverance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>▶ <b>Time Element</b> (“before knowing to refuse evil &amp; choose good”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>indicates when the military threat will be over</li> </ul>		<p>vv. 15-17 are not applicable to the fulfilment in Jesus</p> <p>▶ <b>Foods Eaten</b> (“curds &amp; honey”)</p> <p>▶ <b>Time Element</b> (“before knowing to refuse evil &amp; choose good”)</p>