

A reading from the book of Isaiah 7:10-16, and Matthew 1:18-25

Isaiah Gives Ahaz the Sign of Immanuel

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, **11** Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. **12** But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. **13** Then Isaiah^[a] said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman^[b] is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.^[c] **15** He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. **16** For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1:18-25

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah^[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' **22** All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' **24** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, **25** but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;^[b] and he named him Jesus.

"The Word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God." OR "Here ends the reading."