

Episode #650 Matthew 1 Part 4-A Fulfilled Prophecy?

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. Last time we saw that Joseph was contemplating divorcing his betrothed wife Mary quietly when she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. An angel appeared to him and told him not to be afraid to take her as his married wife.

III. The Birth of Christ.

A. Verse 20. The angel’s interference.

1. Conceived = produced, same as over and over in the lineage.
2. Holy Spirit = holy power (but of course of the Person of the Holy Spirit).

B. Verse 21. Naming the Child.

1. Jesus = a familiar name in Israel, Joshua or Yehoshua, meaning “Yahweh the Savior.” Normally this name testified to this truth. But that is Who He is!
2. His people = meaning Israel. Remember this book is the book of “in Israel.”
3. Sins = the exact nature of the deliverance brought at His first coming.
Deliverance from human oppression awaits His second coming.

C. Verse 22. Fulfillment.

1. All this refers to the whole sequence of events.
2. Fulfilled = *pleroo*, filled full or completed. Refers to Isaiah 7:14. But an examination of the whole chapter reveals in verses 15-16 that this had an immediate fulfillment in the life of Isaiah and Ahaz. How then is the birth of Christ a fulfillment?
3. We think of “fulfilled” as meaning a prediction coming true. But this is not really what this Greek word indicates. Often, it indicates “filling fuller” a passage, proving it true once again, or happening quite in line with it.
Example: Proverbs 22:15. Usually when a real prediction absolutely comes true, like of John the Baptist in Matthew 3:3, the word “fulfilled” is not used!

IV. Conclusion: We know that when God makes a prediction it comes true. Yet when the New Testament speaks of something being fulfilled, it actually means “filled fuller,” the Scripture is proven true once again, it happens quite in line with it, and not necessarily of a prediction coming true. This happens quite in line with Isaiah 7:14, but Isaiah 7:14 is not actually a prediction of this if we look at it closely. What fills this passage fuller is the glorious birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.