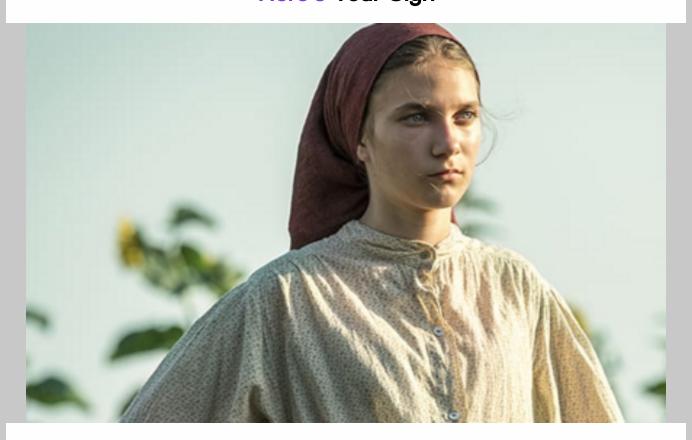




"Therefore the Lord Himself will **give you a sign**: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

## Here's Your Sign



The Promised Messiah. Many have been waiting for the promised seed that will bruise the serpent's head ever since the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden. In His ultimate wisdom, God chose a young Jewish girl named Mary from the people of Israel to be the cultural and religious entry point from which He would bring forth the Messiah and Savior of the world. It was predicted that the Messiah and Savior of the world would triumph over sin and death, and He would restore the children of God back into an intimate relationship with their Father (God).

Fake and False Messiahs. The world would be exploited by many fake and false prophets because of such a powerful prophecy concerning the arrival of the promised messiah. It was therefore imperative that there be a clear sign that would distinguish and set apart the true messiah from the fakes. A clear indication of what this sign would be is given to us in our verse of the day. This verse states, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." The virgin birth, the birth of a child undefiled by the sinful seed of man, would indicate that Jesus was the real McCoy - the real deal.

A Sign is Given. My mind is brought to a clean comic called Bill Engvall, whose standup jokes concluded with the punchline, "Here's your sign." In his stand up routine, Bill would speak about hating "stupid people", and he argued that such people should be required to wear signs (stating, "I'm stupid") so others would be aware of their stupidity. However, when it came to setting Jesus apart, God did not follow Bill Engvall's advice. God decided instead of giving a sign to all of the many fraudulent and fake messiahs and pointing out errors, He would simply give us a sign, pointing us to the one and only true Messiah (Jesus the Christ - virgin birth).

-Your brother in Christ, WNL

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The virgin birth is our sign that Jesus is the promised Messiah and Savior of the world.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God it is easy to be deceived by fakes, but thank you for the sign you have given me in order to know that Jesus Christ is the real Messiah. Jesus' birth was like no one else's (virgin birth) and His death was like no one else's (Rose from the dead). Lord, help me to share these signs with others so that they too will claim Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.



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