

Just Like What Ezekiel 38 Says

How many times have you heard someone appeal to prophets of old to explain the events of our day? Whether it's Ezekiel or Revelation individuals are not only quick to call upon a prophet to substantiate their conclusions, but also 1) Quick to interpret every jot and tittle, or 2) Cannot tell what Ezekiel 38 says.

This article is not an attempt to set anyone straight about Ezekiel 38, or whatever scripture reference they fancy in Revelation. It is, however, intended to provide the "prophecy seeker" a view of prophecy from a rational position.

A well-known prophecy was stated in Isaiah 7:1-16:

Isa 7:10 - And Jehovah spake again unto Ahaz, saying,

Isa 7:11 - Ask thee a sign of Jehovah thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

Isa 7:12 - But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt Jehovah.

Isa 7:13 - And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David: Is it a small thing for you to weary men, that ye will weary my God also?

Isa 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isa 7:15 - Butter and honey shall he eat, when he knoweth to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Isa 7:16 - For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land whose two kings thou abhorrest shall be forsaken.

How does a Bible student know that verse 14 is speaking of the virgin birth of Jesus? The scriptures themselves deal with a king, "Ahaz", and his concern about two opposing nations that were devising evil against Jerusalem. To which, Jehovah said, through Isaiah the prophet, "Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither let thy heart be faint, because of these two tails of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and of the son of Remaliah...thus saith the Lord Jehovah, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass" (Isa. 7, 14).

In short, Jehovah gave Ahaz a “sign” and validates what will take place, i.e., by the time “a virgin shall conceive and before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land whose two kings thou abhorrest shall be forsaken” (7:14-16), i.e., Ahaz had nothing to worry about regarding Syria and Ephraim.

Now, to the prophecy of the virgin birth, to which this passage refers: How does the Bible student “know” it’s speaking of the birth of Jesus? Matthew 1:23.

Be careful not to interpret prophecy based upon what your twenty-first century brain thinks “it might be saying.” ret