Why Believe in Christ's Virgin Birth?

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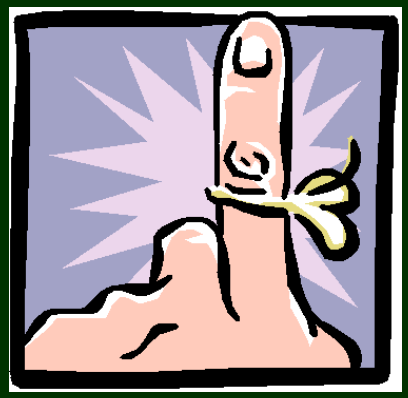
REMEMBRANCE
In Second Peter

- Has forgotten that he has been cleansed (1:9)
- I will always remind you of these things (1:12)
- It is right to refresh your memory (1:13)
- You will always be able to remember these things (1:15)
- I have written both of them as reminders (3:1)
- Do not forget (3:8)
- Bear in mind (3:15)



Why the Virgin Birth?

- To fulfill OT prophecy
- To emphasize Christ's humanity and deity
- To emphasize Christ's eternality
- To maintain Christ's sinlessness
- To protect the bodily atonement
- To circumvent the curse of Jeconiah
- To vindicate the NT

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Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

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Isaiah 7:13-14

“Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a **virgin [*almah*]** will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”

Three Arguments Against the Virgin Birth
(Isa. 7:13-14)

1. The Hebrew word is *Betulah and not Almah (Joel 1:8)!*
2. The Hebrew word *Almah* does not mean virgin!
3. No relevance to Isaiah's day!

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To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

- *Almah*
  - OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)
  - LXX
  - Matthew 1:23

Matthew 1:23

"Behold, the virgin **virgin [*parthenos*]** shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, 'God with us'."

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ISAIAH 7 AND 8 DIFFERENCES

ISAIAH 7		ISAIAH 8
Immanuel		Maher-shalal-hash-baz
Blessing		Judgment
Born to a virgin		Born to Isaiah's wife
Age 12		Age 1-2
Assyrian judgment upon Judah		Assyrian judgment upon Syria and Israel

Isaiah 7:13-14

- **Ahaz' Day?**
  - **<u>Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35</u>**
  - Sign (Isa 7:14)
  - Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)
    - *Shear Jashub* (Isa. 7:3)
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Isaiah 7:1-2

“[1] Now it came about in the days of **Ahaz**, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it. [2] When it was reported to the **house of David**, saying, “The Arameans have camped in Ephraim,” his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind.”

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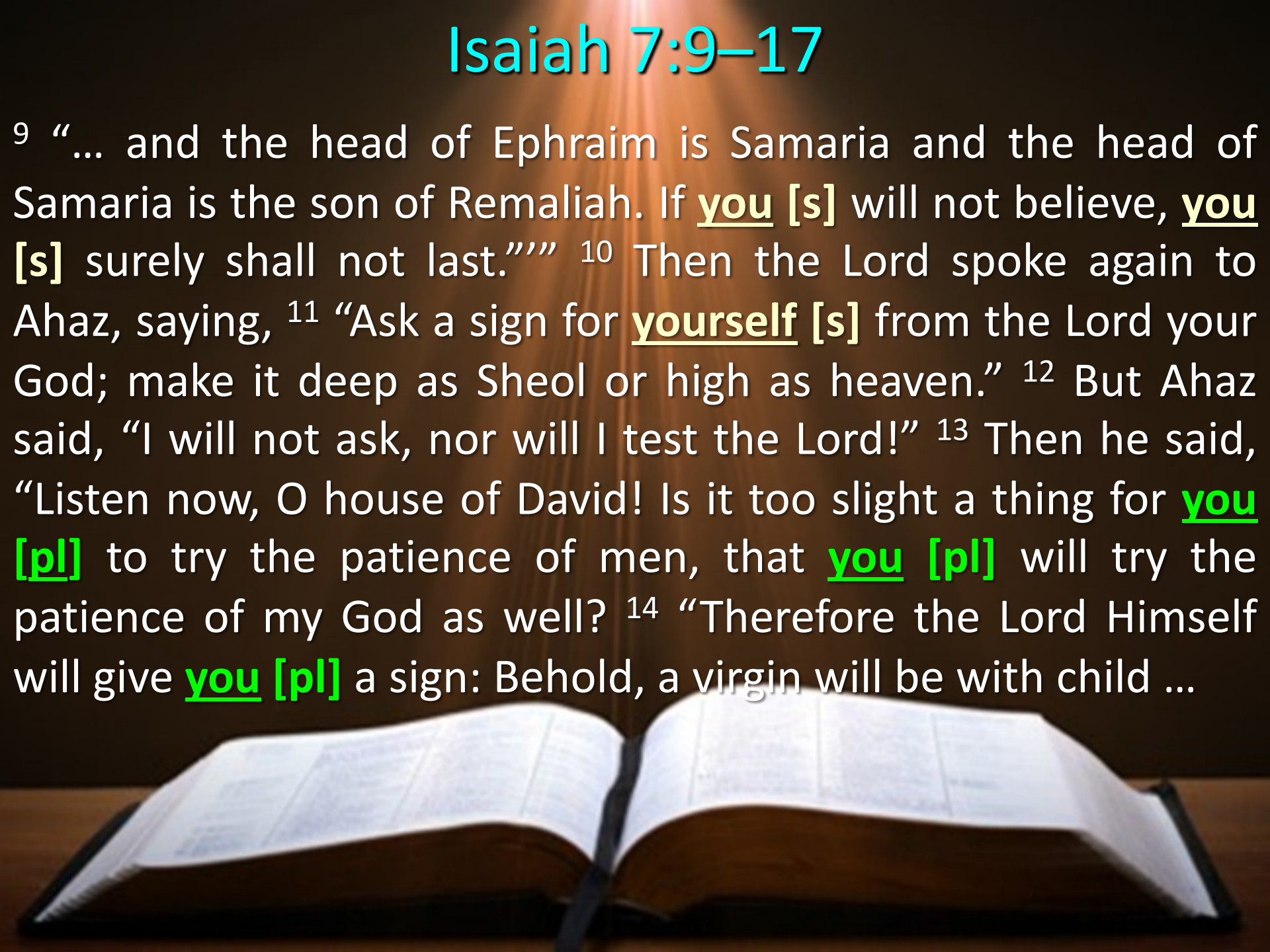
Isaiah 7:9–17

9 "… and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of
Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If **you [s]** will not believe, **you [s]** surely shall not last."'" 10 Then the Lord spoke again to
Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for **yourself [s]** from the Lord your
God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz
said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!" 13 Then he said,
"Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for **you [pl]** to try the patience of men, that **you [pl]** will try the
patience of my God as well? 14 "Therefore the Lord Himself
will give **you [pl]** a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child …



Isaiah 7:9–17

...and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. [15] “He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good. [16] “For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings **you [s]** dread will be forsaken. [17] “The Lord will bring on **you [s]**, on your people, and on your father’s house such days as have never come since the day that Ephraim separated from Judah, the king of Assyria.”

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Isaiah 9:6-7

“6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

Isaiah 11:2

"The Spirit of the **Lord** will rest on Him, The spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, The spirit of **counsel** and **strength**, The spirit of **knowledge** and **the fear of the Lord**."

John 10:35

"If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (**and the Scripture cannot be broken**)."

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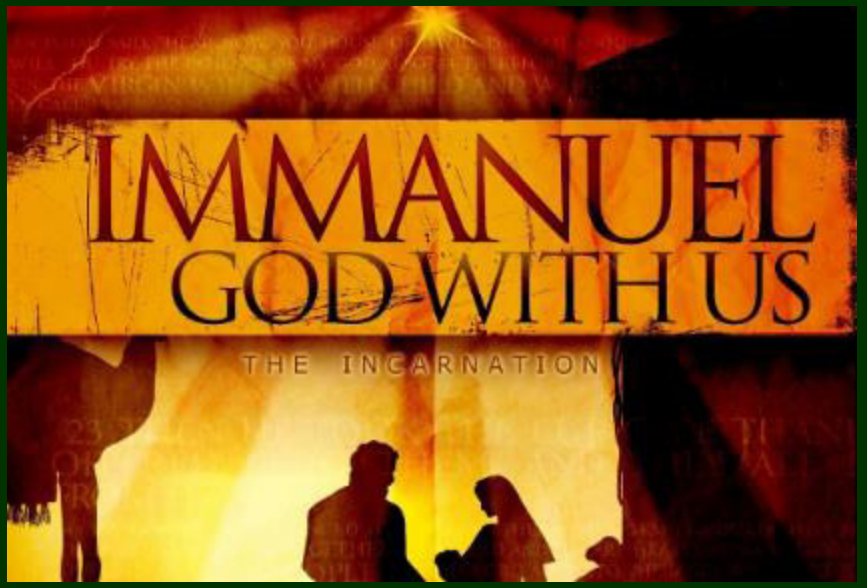
An Important Doctrine

עִמָּנוּאֵל

- Incarnation
- Hypostatic Union
- Unique God-Man
- 100% God
- 100 % Man



Christ's Human Experiences

- Labor (Mark 6:3)
- Distress (Luke 22:44)
- Being troubled (John 12:27)
- Thirst (John 19:28)
- Hunger (Matt 4:2)
- Fatigue (John 4:6)
- Sadness (John 11:35)
- Lack of understanding (Matt 24:36)
- Temptation (Luke 4:1-13; Heb. 4:15)

Luke 2:52

"And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

John 1:1, 14

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**…And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the **only begotten [*monogenēs*]** from the Father, full of grace and truth."

To Emphasize Christ's Humanity and Deity

- Humanity – Luke 2:52
- Deity – John 1:1, 14
- Hypostatic Union
- Virgin birth emphasizes the unique God/Man
  - Born naturally of a woman: humanity
  - Born supernaturally of a virgin: deity

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To Emphasize Christ's Eternality

- Christ's preexistence (John 8:56-59)
- Nicene Creed
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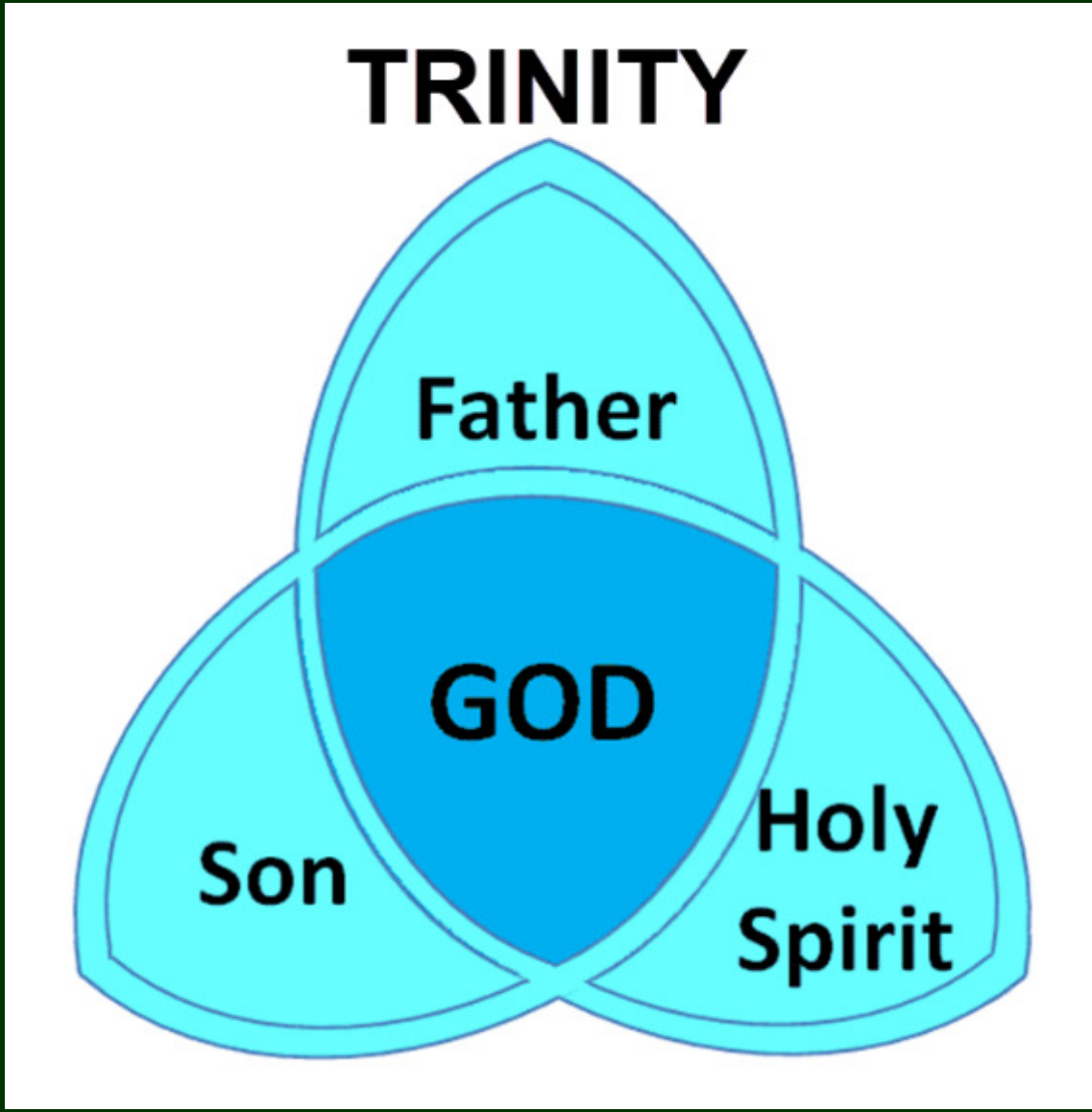

To Emphasize Christ's Eternality

- Christ's preexistence (John 8:56-59)
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Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; **begotten, not made**, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

John 1:14

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the **only begotten [*monogenēs*]** from the Father, full of grace and truth."

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- Christ's perfection (John 8:46; 1 John 2:1)
- Humanity's sin nature (Ps 51:5) passed down though the man (Rom 5:12)
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Genesis 8:21

The Lord smelled the soothing aroma; and the Lord said to Himself, “I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for **the intent of man’s heart is evil from his youth**; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done.[emphasis mine].

Jeremiah 17:9

"The **heart** is more **deceitful** than all else And is desperately **sick**; Who can **understand** it?."

Mark 7:20-23

“[20] And He was saying, ‘That which proceeds **out of the man**, that is what defiles the man. [21] For **from within, out of the heart** of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, [22] deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. [23] All these evil things **proceed from within** and defile the man.’”

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To Protect the Bodily Atonement

- Eternal God must pay the eternal penalty for man's sin (Rom 6:23)

- A perfect substitute must pay the penalty for man's sin (Exod. 12:5; 1 Pet 1:19)

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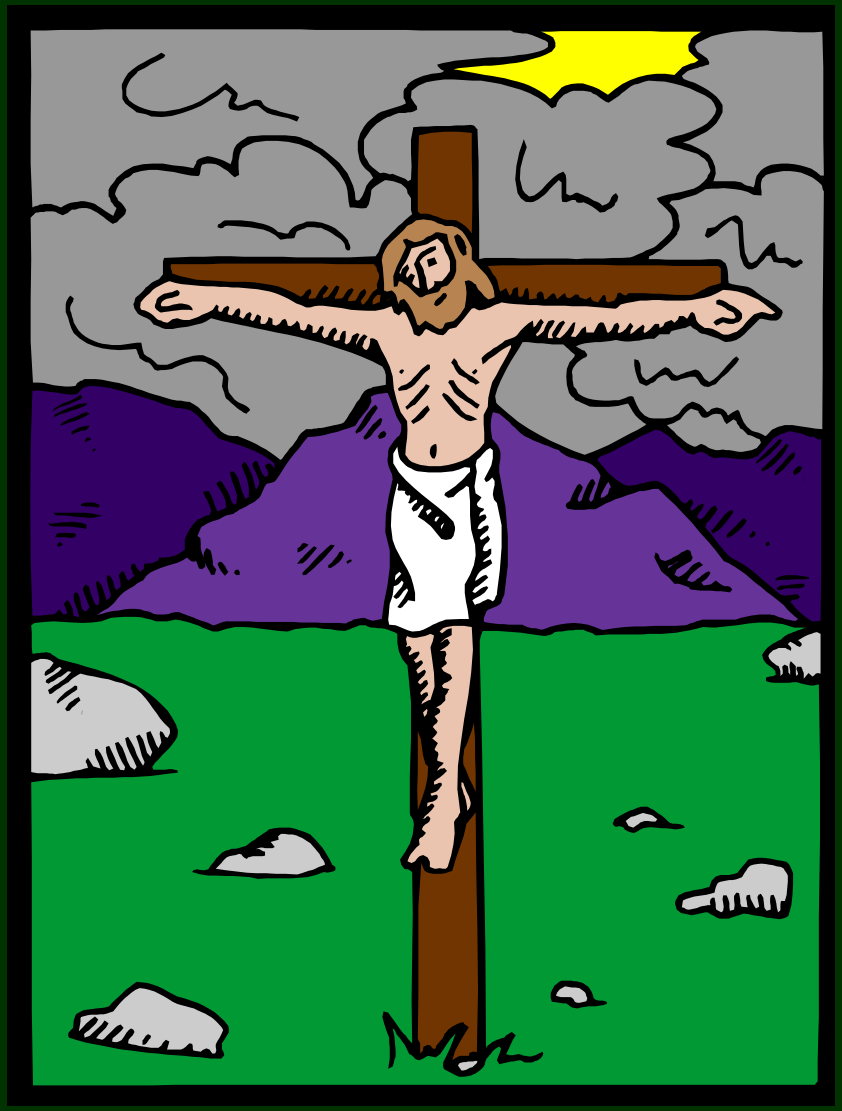
To Pay the Penalty for Man's Sin

- Rom. 6:23
- Gen. 2:17
- Gen. 3:21
- Hebrews 2:9



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Exodus 12:5

"Your lamb shall be an **unblemished** male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats."

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To Circumvent Jeconiah's Curse

- Jeremiah 22:30
- Matthew 1:12
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Jesus Genealogy According to Matthew

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2. Isaac
3. Jacob
4. Judah
5. Perez
6. Hezron
7. Ram
8. Amminadab
9. Nahshon
10. Salmon
11. Boaz
12. Obed
13. Jesse
14. **David**
15. Solomon
16. Rehoboam
17. Abijah
18. Asa
19. Jehosaphat
20. Jehoram
21. Uzziah
22. Jotham
23. Ahaz
24. Hezekiah.
25. Manasseh
26. Amon
27. Josiah
28. **Jeconiah**
29. Shealtiel
30. Zerubbabel
31. Abiud
32. Eliakim
33. Azor
34. Zadok
35. Achim
36. Eliud
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38. Matthan
39. Jacob
40. **Joseph**
41. **Jesus**

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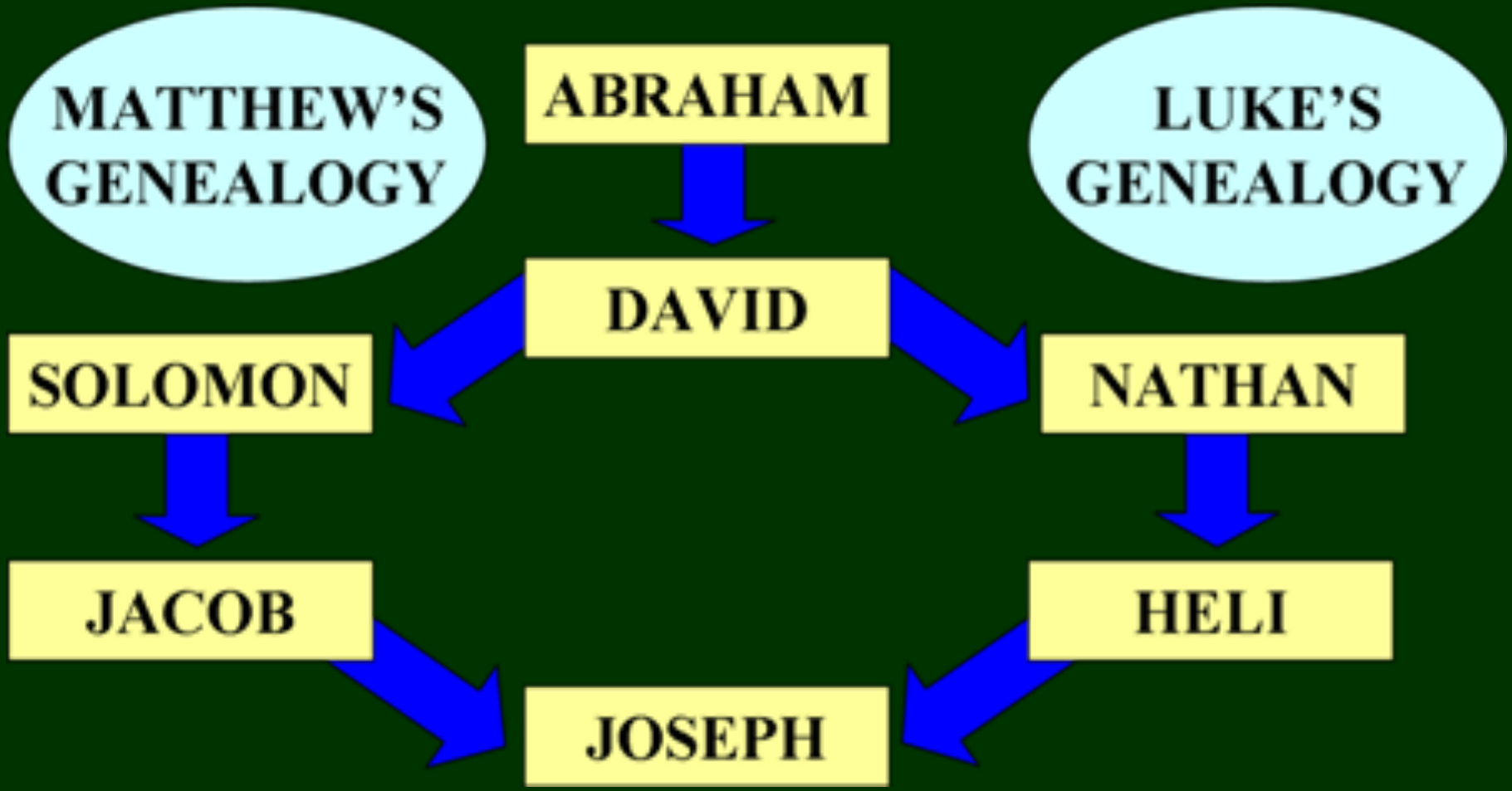
2 Samuel 7:12-16

“12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your **descendant** after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish **the throne of his kingdom forever**. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the . . .

2 Samuel 7:12-16

…strokes of the sons of men, [15] but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. [16] **Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever**.” [17] In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke **to David**.”

To Circumvent Jeconiah's Curse



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- Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-19
- John 8:41

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Conclusion

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"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (NIV)