

Why Believe in Christ's Virgin Birth?



Dr. Andy Woods

Senior Pastor – Sugar Land Bible Church

President – Chafer Theological Seminary



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.”



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 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



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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?

◆ Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35

◆ Sign (Isa 7:14)

◆ Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)

◆ *Shear Jashub* (Isa. 7:3)

◆ David (Isa 7:13)

◆ From the singular to the plural “you”

◆ Extended context (Isa 9:6; 11:1-5)



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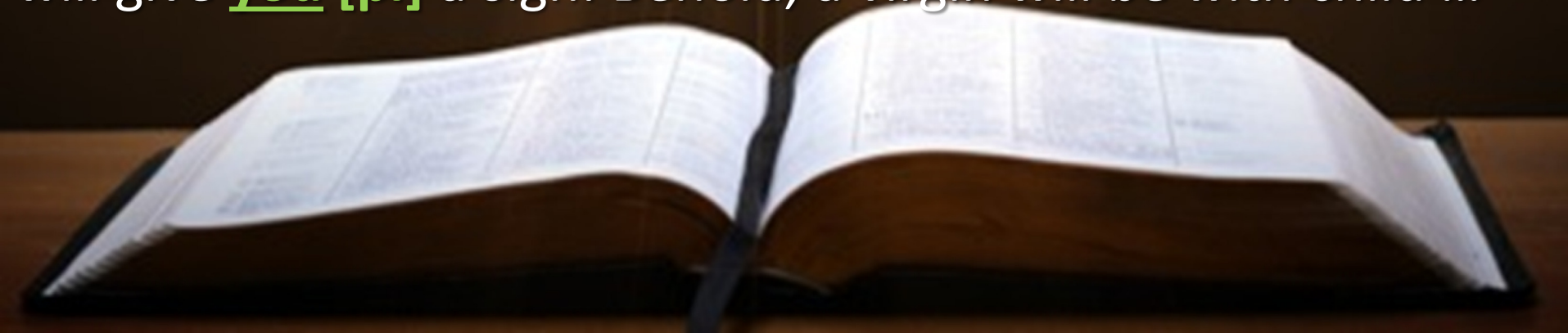
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Isaiah 7:9–17

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.”



Why the Virgin Birth?

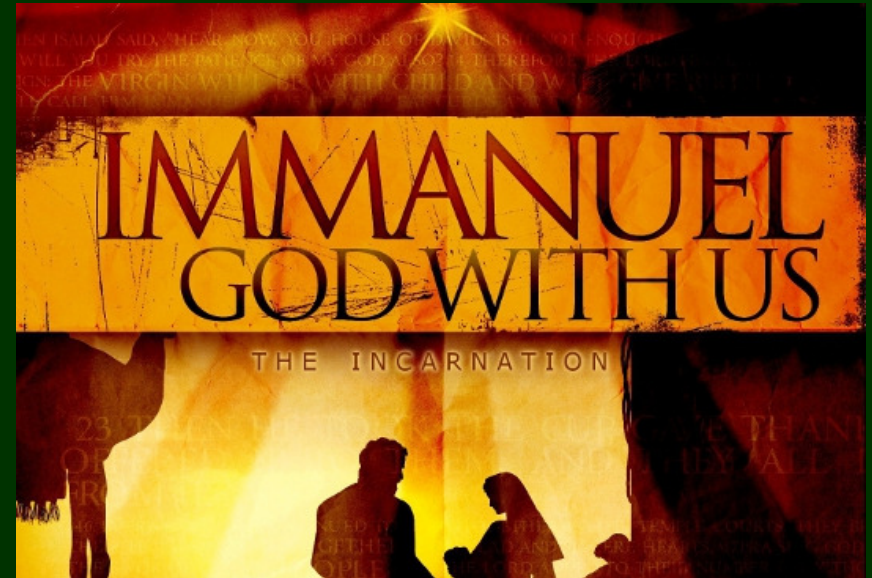
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An Important Doctrine

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)



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
- Virgin birth = no beginning point

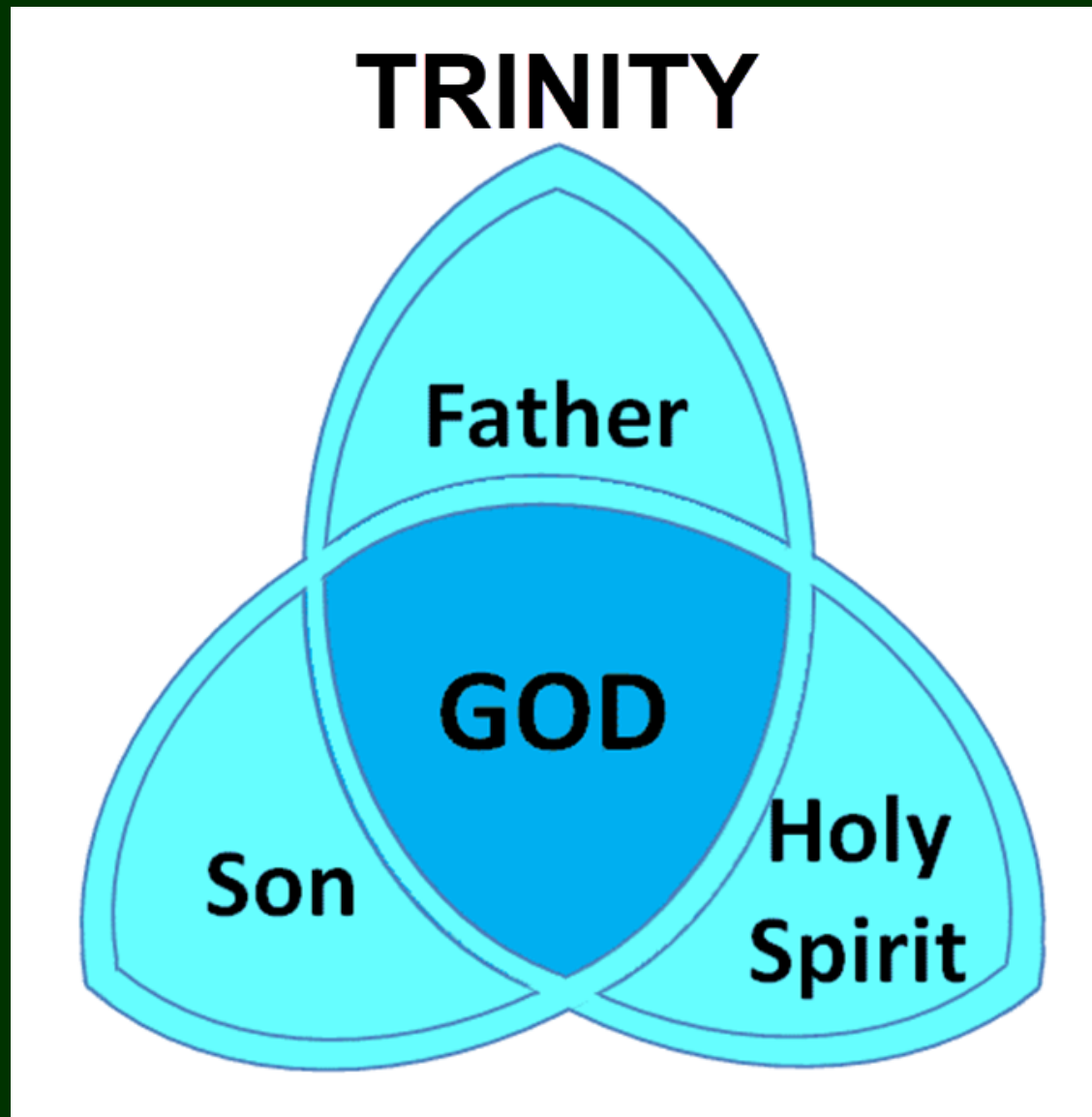


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Nicene Creed

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.

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To Maintain Christ's Sinlessness

- Christ's perfection (John 8:46; 1 John 2:1)
- Humanity's sin nature (Ps 51:5) passed down through the man (Rom 5:12)
- Virgin birth = Christ had no biological father



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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)



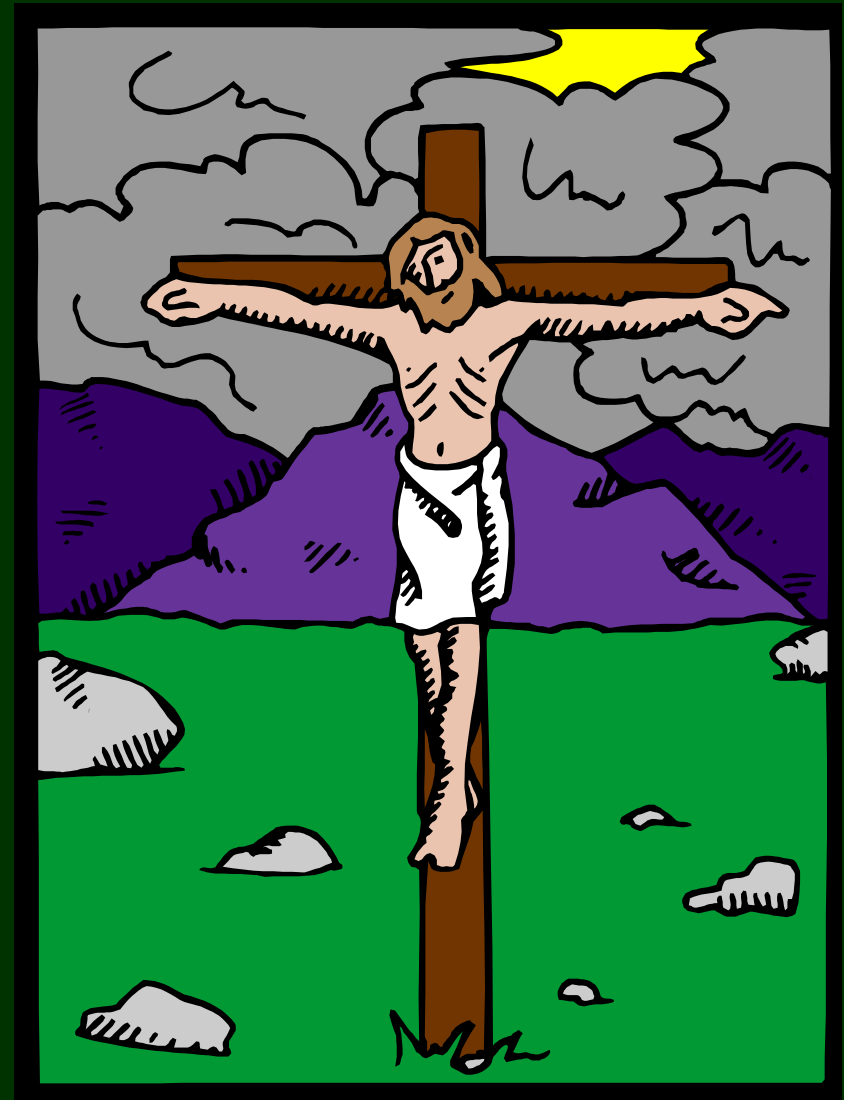
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To Pay the Penalty for Man's Sin

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



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To Circumvent Jeconiah's Curse

- Jeremiah 22:30
- Matthew 1:12
- Virgin birth = Christ not an actual descendant of Jeconiah
- Luke 3:31



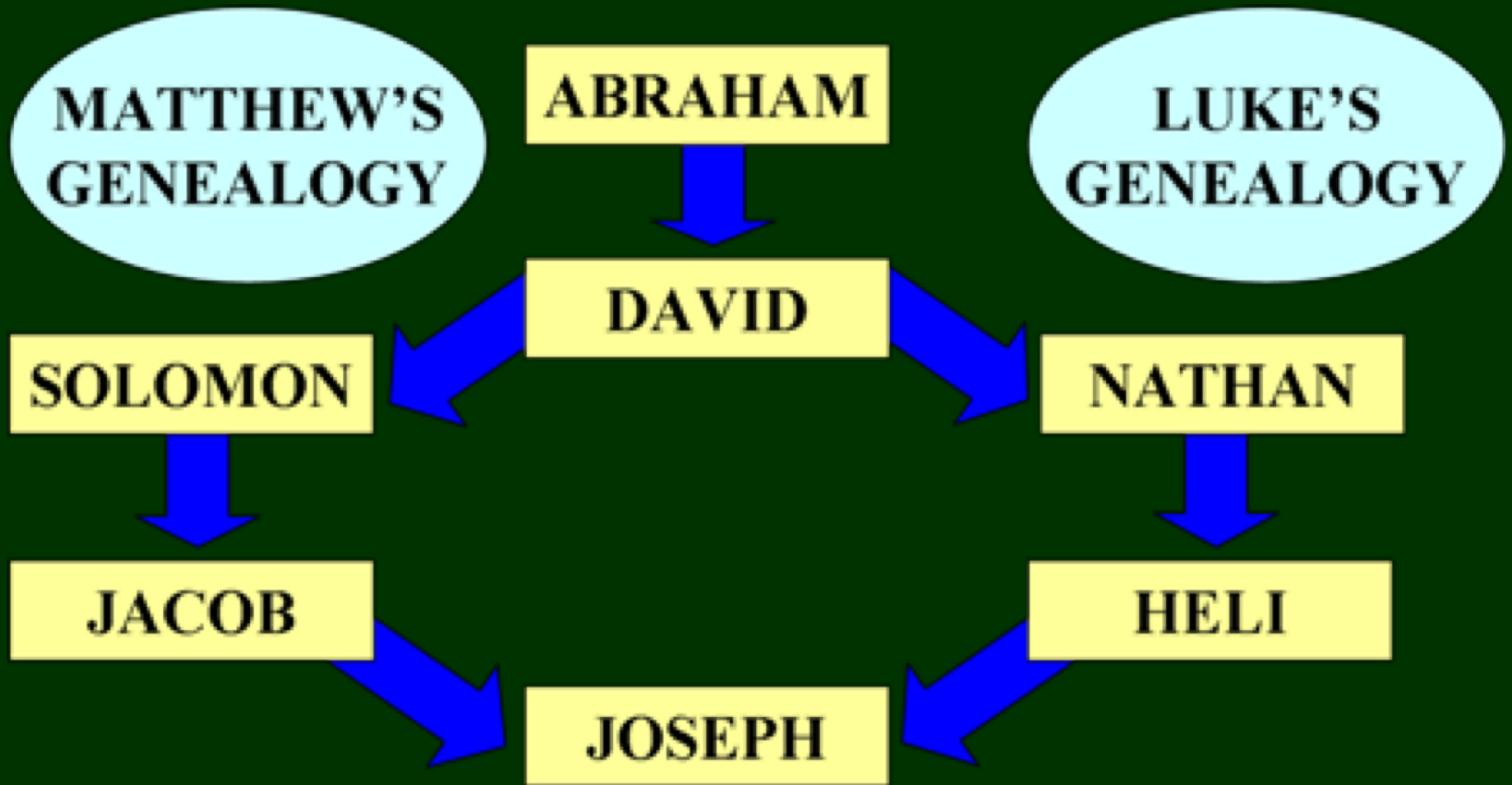
2 Samuel 7:12-16

“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 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.”



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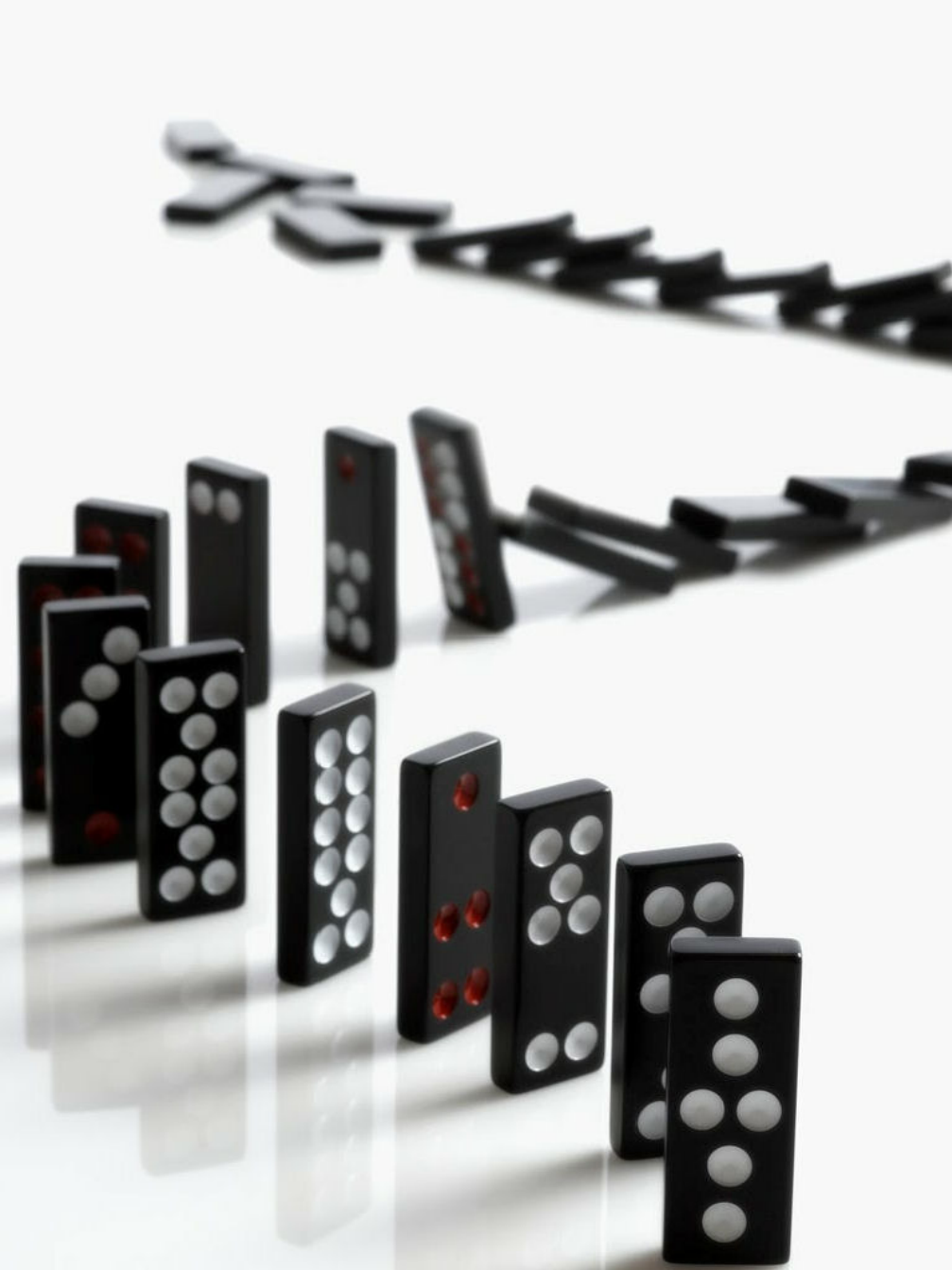
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To Vindicate the NT

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-19
- John 8:41





REVIEW

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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)