



When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.



Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.



Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field.



Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smouldering stubs of firewood — because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah.



Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it."



Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "'It will not take place, it will not happen, for the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.



Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah's son.



If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all."



Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."



But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."



Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of human beings? Will you try the patience of my God also?



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.



He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.



The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria."





Matthew 1 18-25 [Church Bibles Page 913]

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.



Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.



But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.



She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."



All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means God with us).



When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.







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KEEP CALM AND DON'T BE AFRAID



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A people who need rescuing



- A people who need rescuing
- A child being born whose name is a sign that God is going to rescue his people



- A people who need rescuing
- A child being born whose name is a sign that God is going to rescue his people
- The people of God being rescued as God promised



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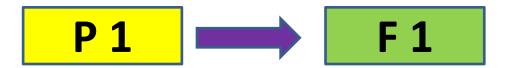


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- The people of God being rescued as God promised:
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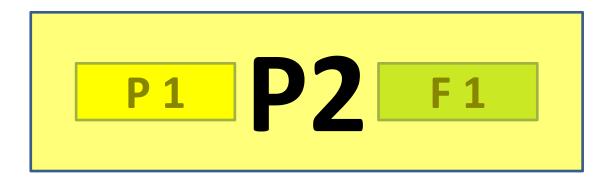


P 1















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Songs

- Through your Holy Spirit conceiving Christ the Son
- I believe in the virgin birth.



Creeds

The Apostles Creed:

... who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.



Creeds

The Nicene Creed:

... was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.



The Athanasian Creed:

For the right faith is that we believe and confess: that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the substance of his Mother, born into the world.









If Jesus is not fully God then he cannot reveal God to us

John 1:18

No-one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.





If Jesus is not fully human then he cannot represent us to God

Hebrews 2:17

He had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every way in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God.

