

HANDOUT - SESSION 2.

The Virgin birth of Jesus prophesied in the Old Testament

Matt: 1:8-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together [had sex] she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus [*yeshua*] for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet [Isaiah 7:14]

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

And his name shall be called Emmanuel [*immanu el*]

which means, 'God with us.' When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had born a son. And he called his name Jesus [Gk. *yesous* - Hebr. *yeshuah*].

The Tanakh Prooftext for the above

(Isa. 7:13-16)

"Therefore the LORD will give you a sign, 'Behold, a young woman (*alma* in Hebrew) will conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel."

The Quranic text for the above

With regard to her virginity we are told in two texts that "she guarded her womb" (sura 66:12) (other Quranic translation has "chastity").

In sura 19:17, we read ""She screened herself away from them [people] and We [Allah] sent to her Our Spirit and it appeared to her in the form of a well-shaped human being....He said: "I am only the messenger of your Lord to grant you a boy most pure." She said, "Shall I have a boy, when no man has touched me and I have not been an unchaste woman?" He said, "Thus it will be...and thus it was."

Sura 4:155-156 reads, " But because they [the Jews] broke their covenant, disbelieved in Allah's revelations, killed the prophets unjustly, and said, "Our hearts are sealed," Allah has sealed them on account of their disbelief. So they do not believe, except for a few! And for their disbelief *and their imputing to Mary a great falsehood...*etc. " What is that falsehood? Is it that Mary is accused of by the Talmudic rabbis of being an adulteress?

The Tanakh prophecies John the Baptist's preaching

Mark 1:1-3 (the oldest gospel, ca. 65 CE) begins as follows:

“The beginning of the gospel [good news] of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in **Isaiah, the prophet**, ‘ Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare the way; **the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord**, make his paths straight - John the Baptizer [or Baptist] appeared in the wilderness, preaching...”

The Isaiah proof text for the above:

Isaiah 40:1-5 to which the Mark text refers, reads as follow:

“Comfort, comfort, my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
That her warfare has ended, that her iniquity is pardoned;
That she has received from the LORD double for all her sin.

A voice cries:

**in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God...**

Can you discern the difference between the Mark and the Isaiah texts?

Jesus rides into Jerusalem sitting on two donkeys

Matthew in 21:1-7

“Go into the village opposite you and you will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, “The Lord has need of them... This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying “Tell the daughter of Zion,

Behold, your king is coming to you,
Humble and mounted on an ass,
And on a colt, the foal of an ass.”

The Zechariah proof text for the above”

Zech. 9:9

Triumphant and victorious is he,
Humble and riding on an ass,
On a colt the foal of an ass.”

But Zechariah already recycles Genesis:

Here, Jacob on his deathbed, prophesies to his sons their future. The following is Jacob’s prophecy for his son Judah.

Gen. 49:10-11

The scepter shall not depart from Judah
nor the ruler’s staff between from between his feet,
until Shiloh comes. [Shiloh=?]
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.
Binding his foal to the vine
And his ass’s colt to the choice vine,

(or, “and to the choice vine, his ass’s colt”) - parallelism here?

Boiling the kid in its mothers milk

Milchik or Fleishik: that is the question

Exod. 23:19, 34:26, Deut. 14:21

lo tevashel gedy bachalev imo. "Thou shalt not see the (boil, cook) the kid in his mother's milk"

