IMMANUEL
PROPHECIES
ISAIAH 7-12

Dr. Ed Hindson
Rawlings School of Divinity
Liberty University
Lynchburg, VA
Old Testament is Not Messianic

“It is impossible to establish that any passage in its original literary and historical context must or even should be understood as portending a future messianic figure.”

Old Testament is Not Messianic

“The early church applied such texts to Jesus because of their conviction about his identity. The conviction about his identity did not derive from the Old Testament. They found Jesus and then saw how the Scriptures fit with him.”

Old Testament is Not Messianic

“How can we identify a passage as messianic if the Old Testament offers no such support for such an interpretation either conceptually or textually, and the New testament suggests no fulfillment connections?”

THE EVANGELICAL DEPARTURE FROM OT MESSIANIC INTERPRETATION

“There is a growing movement by evangelicals away from interpreting the Hebrew Bible (our OT) as a messianic book ... Although evangelical scholarship still recognizes that there is something messianic about the Hebrew Bible, for the most part it sees it as a story that finds its climax in Jesus, not as predictions that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled. As such, it is becoming quite common to state that biblical authors did not have an intentional messianic meaning.”

THEMATIC CONTEXT: ISAIAH 7-12

7:14 Sign: Immanuel (“God is with us”)
8:8 Land of Immanuel
9:6-7 Divine Child = King
10:21 Remnant Returns to Mighty God
11:1-9 Branch of Jesse will rule in Peace & Righteousness
12:1-6 Yahweh...is with us
HISTORICAL ISSUES
THE COURSE OF THE ASSYRIAN CONQUEST

• Imminent destruction of Aram and Israel (Isa 8:1-4)
• Assyrian progress through Israel and Judah (Isa 8:5-7)
IMMEDIATE THREAT
7:1-2

• Rezin of Damascus (Syria)
• Pekah of Samaria (Israel)
• Alliance vs. Ahaz (Judah)
• Threat: Remove and Replace Ahaz with son of Tabeel = Cut off Davidic Line
Isaiah takes his young son Shear-Jashab ("remant shall return") to meet Ahaz at the upper pool. cf. 36:2
PROPHETIC PROMISE
7:4-9

“Be careful, be quiet, do not fear...It shall not stand...not come to pass”
REFUSAL OF THE SIGN

Ask a Sign ( النبي OTH)... deep as Sheol or as high as Heaven—implies miraculous sign.
Ahaz  
Ch. 7

Threat: Syria and Ephraim  
Promise: Not Succeed  
Prediction: Kings Removed  
Location: Upper Pool  
Sign: Rejected

Hezekiah  
Ch. 36-37

Threat: Assyria  
Promise: Not Enter City  
Prediction: King Removed  
Location: Upper Pool  
Sign: Accepted
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”

ESV
INTERPRETIVE VIEWS

1. Messianic: Virgin Birth of Christ
2. Non-Messianic: Birth of a child in Isaiah’s Day
3. Dual Fulfillment: Both: Immediate and Ultimate
NON-MESSIANIC VIEW

1. Refers to any woman and any child
2. Refers to birth of Hezekiah
3. Refers to birth of Isaiah’s Son
CALVIN’S RESPONSE

“As to those who think it was Isaiah’s son, it is an utterly frivolous conjection; for we do not read that a deliverer would be raised up from the seed of Isaiah.” p. 107
DUAL FULFILLMENT VIEW

Albert Barnes (1840). Child of the prophet about to be born:Maher-shalal-hashbaz. Suggest Isaiah’s first wife died and about to remarry. Admits prophecy not completely fulfilled. (p. 165)
THE MOTHER

1. Wife of King Ahaz
2. Wife of Isaiah
3. New Wife of Isaiah
4. Virgin in King’s Harem
5. Virgin Mary
THE VIRGIN
עֲלָמָה (ALMAH)

• Unique Hebrew word for “virgin” (8 times in OT).
• Never used of married woman.
• A young woman (maiden) of marriageable age who is a virgin.
“All modern scholars, however, agree that the Heb. merely denotes a young woman of marriageable age...whether a virgin or not.” p. 799
VIRGIN

בתולה (BETHULAH)

• More common but less precise.

• Motyer: Only 21 of 50 definitively mean virgin (p. 84). “Without a descriptive clause added bethulah does not convey a precise meaning.”

• Twice used of “young widow” (Deut. 22:19; Joel 1:8).
SHALL CONCEIVE
(ָרָה HARAH)

A feminine adjective with an active participle ("bearing"). Denotes present tense: "Behold the pregnant virgin bearing a son"

Edward J. Young
**IMMANUEL**

(עִמָּנוּל — “G O D W I T H US”)

1. Hezekiah
2. Maher-shalal-l-hashbaz
3. No one in particular
4. Jesus (Matthew 1:23)
MATTHEW'S QUOTATION
Matthew 1:23

- **Greek**: παρθένος
  *Parthenos*
- Always means “virgin”
- **LXX** translates *almah* as *parthenos*
MICAH 5:2-3

- Isaiah’s contemporary predicts the place of Messiah’s birth.
- “She who is in labor” (present tense) shall give birth to “ruler in Israel” whose origin is “from antiquity” (miggedem) “from eternity” (olam)
IMMEDIATE RELEVANCE

• Removal of the threat
  Child in v. 16
  1. Ideal child
  2. Hezekiah
  3. Maher-shalal-hashbash
  4. Shear Jashub
CHAPTER 8
GOD IS WITH US

1. Birth of Maher-shalal-hash-baz “spoil speeds, prey hastens”
2. Damascus and Samaria will fall
3. Assyria will come vs. Israel (722 BC)
4. Assyria will threaten Judah “your land O Immanuel” (8:8)
5. But “God is with us” (Immanuel).
CHAPTER 9

• Great Light in Galilee vs. 1-2 cf. Matthew 4:13-16; Luke 1:79

• Promised King: “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government shall be upon his shoulder...on the throne of David...forevermore (meatah olam)
DIVINE CHILD 9:6

- Wonderful Counselor
  " פליא יועץ " pele yoets
- Mighty God
  " אל גיבור " el gibbor
- Everlasting Father
  " אב עד " abi ad
- Prince of Peace
  " שיר-שלום " sar shalom
CHAPTER 10

• Assyria will be judged with a “wasting sickness” (cf. ch. 36-37)

• Remnant of Israel will return (Shear Jashub) to the “mighty God” (el gibbor) (Vs. 21)
• **Prediction**: Tree of Davidic Line will be cut down and a **shoot** (choter) will spring from stump (geza’) of Jesse and a **branch** (netser) from his roots.

• **Messiah** is both the root and branch of the Davidic Line.
Coming King is anointed by the Spirit of the Lord (Ruach Yahweh) and endowed with His gifts. “Counsel” and “Might” are used in 9:6 to describe the coming King.
CHAPTER 12

Closing Crescendo

1. “Give thanks” v. 4
2. “Sing praises” v. 5
3. “Shout for joy” v. 6

Holy One of Israel is “with us”