

The Sign of the Messiah

Ezekiel 46:13 CJB

(13) " You are to provide a lamb in its first year that has no defect for a daily burnt offering to Yahweh; do this each morning.

Isaiah 7:14 CJB

Therefore, Yahweh himself will give you people a sign: the young woman [*Or: "the virgin."*] will become pregnant, bear a son and name him **Immanu El** [*God is with us*].

Introduction:

More than 200 Years before the **birth** of Yeshua, Yahweh spoke to Israel through the prophets, informing them that the **messiah** would come into this world, reestablish the kingdom of David, and would reign in peace for ever.

Many things had been **prophesized about the coming messiah**. Israel was expecting him to come and re-establish David's reign. This would mean that **Israel would rise above her enemies** and live in a peaceful environment forever.

However, Israel did **not have the full understanding** of the plan of Yahweh in restoring the earth back to paradise. Before a peaceful paradise could be restored, **sin had to be dealt with**.

There can be no **everlasting peace** until sin has been eradicated. As long as Satan, the **"god of this world"** is active, there will be **wars, natural disaster, senseless killing, child abuses, fighting and everything else imaginable**.

Therefore, Elohim needed to deal with the **sin problem**, before he could establish his eternal kingdom. There will be **no wars** or natural disaster. There will be **no senseless killing** or child abuse in the kingdom where the seed of David, the messiah will reign. That is why Elohim put Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden to prevent them from living forever in their sinful state.

Yahweh chose Abraham, made a covenant with him, and promised that through the **seed of Abraham** the nations of the world would be blessed.

This of course would be a process. **First** Elohim chose

- one man, (Abraham) from that one man he chose
- one nation (Israel); from that one nation he chose
- one tribe (Judah); from that tribe, he chose
- one family (Jesse); from that family he chose
- one king (David).

Yahweh made a **promise to David** that he would establish his kingdom forever through his seed. That seed would be the Messiah, the anointed one, the savior of the world.

Through the prophet Isaiah he said:

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Isaiah 9:5-6 CJB/WEB

For a **child is born** to us, a son is given to us; **dominion** will rest on his shoulders, and he will be given the name Pele-Yo`etz El Gibbor Avi-`Ad Sar-Shalom [*Wonder of a Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace*]

6. in order to extend the dominion and **perpetuate the peace of the throne and kingdom of David**, to secure it and sustain it through justice and righteousness henceforth and forever. The zeal of Yahweh of Armies will accomplish this.

At a time when the nation of Israel was facing captivity Yahweh gave them a **sign** so that they would know that He **would keep his promise**.

Isaiah 7:11-14 CJB

(11) "Ask Yahweh your God to give you a sign. Ask it anywhere, from the depths of Sh'ol to the heights above."

(12) But Ahaz answered, "I won't ask, I won't test Yahweh."

(14) **Therefore Yahweh himself will give you people a sign:** the young woman [*Or: "the virgin."*] will become pregnant, bear a son and name him **Immanu El** [*God is with us*].

Sign:

Any appearance or event which **indicates** the existence or approach of something else.

In other words, the sign that **Yahweh gave to Israel** was about an event that would happen in the future.

That event would be, that **GOD** would come into **this** world and they would recognize him when **a virgin** gives birth to a son.

The reason it had to be a virgin is, his blood had to be free from sin.

Sin is transmitted through the blood. Yahweh said the **life is in the blood**. Every person born since Adam sinned has contaminated blood. Therefore, the Messiah had to have blood that is free of sin in order to redeem humanity from sin. A mother's blood never mixes with her baby's blood in the womb. Therefore, the baby born from a virgin would be sinless.

In **Zechariah 3:8-9** Yahweh told the high priest Joshua that he would remove the guilt of the land in **ONE DAY**, this of course would be through his son, **Yeshua**.

Zechariah 3:8-9 CJB

(8) Listen, High priest Joshua, both you and your colleagues seated here before you, because these men are **a sign** that I am going to **bring my servant** the branch [*Sprout*].

(9)... **'AND I WILL REMOVE THE GUILT OF THIS LAND IN ONE DAY.**

Yah removed the guilt by sending his son, **Yeshua**, into this sinful world to **redeem humanity** by his **sacrificial death** on the altar.

Paul said at **Yahweh God appointed time**, the savior was born.

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Galatians 4:4-5 CJB

(4) but when the **appointed time arrived**, God sent forth his Son. He was born from a woman, born into a culture in which **legalistic perversion of the Torah was the norm**,
(5) so that he **might redeem those** in subjection to this legalism and thus enable us to be made God's sons

As Yeshua began his earthly ministry, he approached John the Baptist in order to be baptized, and upon seeing **him** John said --



John 1:29 CJB....., "**Look! God's lamb!** The one who is taking **away the sin** of the world!

Israel was expecting a **king** to rule on David's throne. However, before the anointed one could come as king of **Israel**, **he had to come as a lamb**; before he could reign as **king over Israel**, he had to **die for the sins of the entire world**.

Israel had been given a **picture**; a visual aid; of the coming lamb of God, but they did not **connect** this picture to the Messiah.

Every year when the **Passover lamb was slain**, it was a picture of Yeshua, the Lamb of God. Every year on the **Day of Atonement** when the blood was sprinkled on the altar, it was a picture of the blood of the messiah, whose blood was spilled to redeem humanity.

The Passover was a **clear picture of redemption**. In it one can see the **substitutional** death of a lamb to **save a nation**.

The **day of atonement** taught that an animal's blood had to be spilled in order to **cover the sins of the people**.



It was **necessary for blood to be spilled** in order for sin to be atoned for.

Leviticus 17:11 CJB

For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you **on the altar to make atonement for yourselves**; for it is the blood that makes atonement **because of the life.**'

Israel missed it.

They were expecting their messiah to come and to restore the kingdom back to the nation of Israel.

Therefore, when Yeshua came into the world, the majority of the people of Israel did **not recognize him**. They did not expect **their king** to walk the street among **commoners**,

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hanging out with sinners, drinking wine and infringing upon their **traditions**; their **legalistic perversion of the Torah/law**.

Paul said in Galatians 4:4

Galatians 4:4-5 CJB

- (4) ... He was born into a culture, in which **legalistic perversion of the Torah was the norm**,
- (5) so that he **might redeem** those in subjection to this **legalism** and thus enable **us** to be made God's sons.

The “**us**” that the Apostle Paul is referring to includes both **Jews** and **gentiles**.

John 3:16 CJB

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only and **unique Son**, so that everyone who trusts in him may have eternal life, instead of being utterly destroyed.

Yahweh's **overall plan** was to give **all humanity**; his entire creation; an opportunity to live.

2 Peter 3:9 CJB

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some people think of slowness; on the contrary, he is patient with you; for it **is not his purpose** that anyone should be destroyed, **but that everyone should turn from his sins**.

Therefore, since it is Yahweh's **will** and **purpose** for the world to be saved, **Yeshua** came to accomplish His father's will.

He said in Hebrews 10:7-

Hebrews 10:7 CJB

Then I said, 'Look! In the scroll of the book it is written about me. **I have come to do your will**."

We see a **glimpse** of this **plan of God's** in the book of Genesis, when Adam and Eve sinned. **Everything** that Yahweh did over the course of history pointed toward that “**fullness of time**” when he would take action to **eradicate sin**, and to restore **his** kingdom of righteousness.

And so, Yah gave Judah **a sign** to indicate how He was to do it.

What was **THE SIGN** [*event which indicates the approach of God's timing*] that **we** should know for certain that Yeshua was the one the prophets spoke about?

1. In was in the manner of his conception.

Isaiah had prophesized in **Isaiah 7:14** that a virgin would give birth.

And when the **appointed time arrived Luke said:**

Luke 1:26-33 CJB

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- (26) In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in the Galil called Natzeret,
- (27) **to a virgin engaged** to a man named Joseph, of the house of David; the virgin's name was Miryam.
- (31) Look! You will **become pregnant**, you will give birth to a son, and you are to name him **Yeshua**.
- (32) He will be great, he will be **called Son of most high. Yahweh, God**, will give him the throne of his forefather David;
- (33) and he will rule the House of Jacob forever — **there will be no end to his Kingdom.**"

This son will be **all** that Israel **expected** him to be according to prophecy:

- Given, the throne of David
- rule the House of Jacob forever
- His Kingdom would be everlasting.

All of this had been prophesied concerning the messiah **over 200** years previous.

Another sign that was given in order to know that Yeshua is the messiah was:

2. Was the place of his birth.

It was prophesized that he would be born in **Bethlehem**.

Micah 5:2 CJB

But you, **Bethlehem** near **Ephratah**, so small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come forth to me **the future ruler of Isra'el**, whose origins are far in the past, back in ancient times.

And so in the **fullness** of time Yahweh arranged for Mary to be in Bethlehem for the baby to be born there.

Luke 2:4-7 CJB

So Joseph, because he was a descendant of David, went up from the town of Nazareth **in the Galil** to the town of David, called Beit-Lechem, in Y'hudah,

(5) to be registered, with Miryam, to whom he was engaged, and who was pregnant.

(6) **While they were there**, the time came for her to give birth;

(7) and she gave birth to her **first child, a son**. She wrapped him in [Swaddling] cloth and laid him down in a **feeding trough**, because there was no space for them in the living-quarters.

[Swaddling; strips of cloth; binding in tight clothes.]

When the time of his birth arrived, there were **no room** in the **living quarter** for him to be born.

It has long been taught that **baby Yeshua was born in a stable among the animals**, which would indicate a place of **unsanitary condition**.

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I heard a preacher say that there was no shortage of **stables in Bethlehem because of the occupation of the people**. They were all farmers, who owned sheep and other cattle. Therefore, **Joseph could have his pick of stables**.

This may sound **good in a sermon**, however, **is it scripture?** Did the **almighty God**, who has always planned things so **carefully** and **precisely**, leave the parents of his son to wander around Bethlehem looking for just **any stable** to give birth to his son?

According to **scriptures**, the Messiah, the son of God, **was not born in just any ordinary stable**, but in one that has been **designated** by **Yahweh** his father, and foretold by his prophet.

Everything surrounding the birth of **God's son** had been **carefully** planned in detail. Yahweh had arranged for them to be in that crowded city of **Bethlehem**. Therefore, would it not have **occurred to you** that Yahweh would have arranged for a **birthing place for his son?**

A place of birth that had **nothing** to do with him being born in poverty (**as some say**), or to show that he was humble (**as others believe**). There is **nothing humbling** in a dirty, unsanitary stable among stinking **cattle and goats**.

Therefore, we must look for Yeshua's birth place in view of the **overall purpose** of his birth.

Paul said he came to **save sinners**.

1 Timothy 1:15 CJB

So here is a statement you can trust, one that fully deserves to be accepted: **the Messiah came into the world to save sinners**, and I'm the number one sinner!

Therefore, the question is - **how was he to save sinners?**

John the Baptist gives us the answer to that question in

John 1:29 CJB

..."Look! **God's lamb!** The one who is taking **away the sin** of the world!

Therefore, a lamb **must** be born in the place where **lambs** are customarily born.

The **prophet Micah** spoke of such a place; the place where Yahweh himself had designed.

Micah 4:8 CJB

You, **tower of the flock**, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you your former sovereignty will return, the royal power of the daughter of Yerushalayim.

According to **Rabbi Mike Short** in his lesson taught at **Beth El Messianic Congregation**, in Glendale, AZ, some years ago.

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"The phrase "**tower of the flock**" is the Hebrew phrase "*Migdal Edar*" [mig-dawl ay-der] and means a "**watch tower of the flock**".



This **watch tower** from ancient times was used by the shepherds for protection from their enemies and wild beasts.

It was **also** the place where **female sheep** were safely brought to **give birth to the lambs**. In this sheltered building/cave the **priests** would bring in the ewes which were **about to give birth** for protection.

According to **Edersheim** in *The Life And Times Of Jesus The Messiah*, "This [mig-dawl ay-der] was not the watchtower for the **ordinary flocks** close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem.

[The tower of The Flock]

According to the Mishnah (Shekelim 7:4) the **flocks which pastured there were destined FOR TEMPLE SACRIFICES...**"

The **Mishnah** was the **first recording** of the oral law of the Jews. It is the major source of rabbinic teachings of Judaism.

So, **mig-dawl ay-der** was the watchtower that guarded the **Temple** flocks that were being raised to serve as **sacrificial animals in the Temple**.

These were not just **any flock and herd**. The shepherds who kept them were **men who were specifically trained for this royal task**.

They were **educated** in what an animal, that was to **be sacrificed**, had to be and it was **their job** to make sure that none of the animals were hurt, damaged, or blemished."

These lambs were apparently wrapped in "**swaddling cloths**" to **protect them from injury**.

The **lambs had to be healthy**. Therefore, the rabbis took special precaution in **rearing the sheep**, to ensure that only the **BEST** was offered up to Yahweh.

Thus, the fields outside of Bethlehem was the place where a **special group of shepherds** raised the lambs that were sacrificed in the Temple.

Since these shepherds were under special Rabbinical care, they **would strictly maintain a ceremonially clean** stable for a birthing place.

We see pictures of the **family sitting in straw**, in a filthy unsanitary, stable, with different animal standing there looking on.

This is Hardly a place for **any child** to be born, especially not a place for the son of the **Most High Elohim [God]** to be born. **The one who was destined for sacrifice**.

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The **Tower of the Flock** was used for **birthing lambs**, and the surrounding fields were where these shepherds grazed their flocks.

These shepherds customarily kept their flocks outdoors twenty-four hours a day every day of the year but brought the females lambs in to deliver their babies **where they** could be **carefully cared** for.

In reference to the shepherds, **Luke records**.

Luke 2:8-12 CJB

(8) In the **countryside nearby** were **some shepherds** spending the night in the fields, guarding their flocks,



(9) when an angel of Yahweh appeared to them, and the Sh'khinah of Yahweh shone around them. They were terrified;

(10) but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am here announcing to you **Good News** that will bring great joy to **all the people**."

(11) This very day, in the town of David, there was born for you a Deliverer who is the **Messiah, the Lord**.

(12) Here is how **you will know**: you will find a baby **wrapped** in cloth and lying in a feeding trough."

No other information was given to the shepherds **as to the location** of the feeding trough. However, these men, being especially trained, and knowing the **words of the prophets**, who themselves **raised sacrificial lambs that were sacrificed in the Temple**, were able to **go directly** to the place where the baby was lying.

Because there would have been only **one place** where the baby, who was wrapped in **swaddling** clothes could be. That is, **mig-dawl ay-der**. The **tower of the flocks**, where sheep were born to be sacrificed at the temple.

Conclusion:

"Migdal Edar"[mig-dawl ay-der], (the tower of the flock) located at Bethlehem is the perfect place for **Yeshua to be born**.

He was born in the **very birthplace where thousands** of lambs, which had been sacrificed were born.

Yeshua was the **spotless lamb; the lamb without blemishes**, who would be sacrificed on the altar for the sins of humanity.

John 1:29 CJB

"Look! **God's lamb!** The one who is taking away the sin of the world!"

Yahweh promised a **delivered**, a **savior**; he gave us a **picture of him in the Passover**; and He brought him forth at "Migdal Edar" mig-dawl ay-der.

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Yeshua was **NOT born in a smelly stable** where the donkeys of travelers and other animals were kept.

He was **born in Bethlehem**, at the **birthing place** of the **sacrificial lambs** that were offered in the Temple in Jerusalem which **Micah 4:8** calls the **"tower of the flock."**

Every firstborn male lamb from the **area** around **Bethlehem** was **considered holy**, **set aside for sacrifice in Jerusalem**.

Luke 2:7 CJB

(and she gave birth to her **first child, a son**. She wrapped him in cloth and laid him down in a **feeding trough**, because there was no space for them in the living-quarters.



John the Baptist called Yeshua/Jesus **not only** the **"Son of God"** (John 1:34) But also the **"Lamb of God"** (John 1:36).

The **Firstborn Lamb** of God would sacrifice his life to atone for the sins of all - **a one-time perfect sacrifice**, offered by the Father God Himself.

Where else would **"the Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29) be born **if not** in Bethlehem, among the **sacred Temple flocks?**

We must view the **birth of Yeshua**; and the **birthplace** of Yeshua in light of Yahweh **overall purpose**.



The **inns being** overcrowded was **not the only reason** that Yeshua was born in a stable. **He was born** there as **a sign** of his **true purpose in his becoming a human being**; which was to sacrifice himself for humanity.

In Yahweh's time Jesus/Yeshua came **exactly as He promised** and **at the fullness of His time**. to **restore** humanity into fellowship with Elohim.

"And as sure as His **past promises** have been kept, so will His **promises for the future be kept**."

Acts 1:10-11

This Yeshua, who has been taken away from you into heaven, **will come back to you** in just the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

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It is at **this coming back** of Yeshua, that his **everlasting kingdom** will be established, and **he will sit and rule on the throne of David**.

As the angels said he would be

- **Given, the throne of David**
- **he would rule the House of Jacob forever**
- **and his Kingdom would be everlasting**

Revelation 22:7 CJB

(7) "Look! **I am coming very soon**. Blessed is the person who obeys the words of the prophecy written in this book!"

Revelation 22:12 CJB

(12) "Pay attention!" [*says Yeshua,*] "**I am coming soon**, and my rewards are with me to give to each person according to what he has done.

In God's eternal kingdom. There will be **no wars** or natural disaster. There will be **no senseless killing** or child abuse in the kingdom where the seed of David, the messiah will reign.

Revelation 22:20 CJB

(20) "The one who is testifying to these things says, '**Yes, I am coming soon!**' " **Amen! Come, Lord Yeshua!**

Are you ready?