

Pastor's Weekly Devotional- December 15, 2016
"The Signs of Christmas"

God has given us three specific signs with respect to the incarnation of Christ. There were other signs, no doubt, such as the Star of Bethlehem, but three events were specifically called "signs".

First, to the unwilling King Ahaz, God said: "Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and His name shall be Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). "Immanuel" means "God with us" and the sign of the Virgin Birth, biologically impossible without a mighty miracle of divine creation, ensures us that the omnipotent God has entered the human family as the Christ Child.

That entrance was not made in an emperor's palace as a conqueror, however, but in the very humblest of human circumstances. This was the Second Sign. "And this shall be a sign to you," said the leader of the angelic hosts. "You shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying on a manger" (Luke 2:12).

Then, there was a third sign. When the infant Jesus was brought to the Temple, the aged prophet Simeon said: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel; and for a sign...that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Luke 2:34, 35).

That is, the Christ Child is the God/Man as a sign to the world. God has identified with us. He knows and fully understand through the Christ Child our pains, our disappointments, our frustrations, our helplessness...and the list goes on. The greatest sign you can experience today is a changed heart, forgiveness of sins and a second chance – that is what the Christ Child offers you today!

Have a nice week. See you in church Sunday.
Pastor Sewdin