

Theme: How big is the God in whom you trust? Big enough to direct his created order to accomplish all *his* plans and promises? Big enough to plant the seed of eternal life in a virgin’s womb?

Introduction: Harry Emerson Fosdick – 1922 sermon, "Shall the Fundamentalists Win?" Boldly denying the virgin birth and the return of Christ.

I. The Problem of the Virgin Birth

A. Spurious objections

1. An argument from “silence”
 - a. Not a central doctrine
 - Only in Matthew and Luke
 - Some vague reference to it in Isaiah 7
 - b. Easily answered
2. A “borrowed” concept
 - a. The claim has been made for others
 - Krishna, Augustus Caesar, Alexander the Great
 - b. The Bible promise predates many of them

B. The real problem – unbelief

1. That’s impossible!
 - God *can*’t do that! It isn’t natural. (An anti-supernatural mindset)
 - If it defies the scientific method it is impossible
 - The ancient people made up “miracles” to explain what they didn’t understand“That’s impossible” leads to
2. That's irrational!
 - What the world around us “believes”

II. The Promise of the Virgin Birth

A. “Religion is inherently subjective”

1. The most important question:
 - What will happen to me when I die?
2. “How do you know you are right?”
 - a. “Feelings”
 - Most religions relay your experience
 - b. Evidence
 - How do you verify religious claims?

B. God’s objective challenge

1. Present your case (Isaiah 41:21-23; 44:7-8)
 - God gives a way to test his word against other gods
 - “Tell me what will be”
2. The criteria for judgment
 - a. Clarity
 - Clearly and naturally understood
 - b. With prior announcement
 - Known clearly in advance of its fulfillment

- c. Independence
 - The speaker cannot be involved in the fulfillment
- d. Likelihood
 - No chance of “guessing”

NOTE: No other religion submits to such a test.

C. The Bible’s long-range predictions

1. Tyre and Sidon (Ezekiel 26:3-14; 28:22,23)
 - a. Tyre
 - Total destruction predicted, never to be rebuilt
 - True to this day
 - b. Sidon (20 miles north)
 - Will be conquered but will remain
2. Memphis and Thebes (Ezekiel 30:13; 30:14-16)
 - a. Memphis – capital city of Egypt for most of her ancient history
 - To be wiped clean (nothing left)
 - Today? A hole in the ground.
 - b. Thebes – its southern counterpart
 - Multitudes destroyed, but the place remains
 - Today? The largest collection of ancient artifacts in Egypt apart from the Pyramids
3. Ekron and Ashkelon (Zephaniah 2:4, 6-7)
 - a. Ashkelon – A “remnant” has returned
 - b. Ekron – Cannot be positively identified
4. Babylon and Ninevah (Isaiah 13:19-22; Zephaniah 2:13-15)
 - Babylon would cease to exist
 - Ninevah would become a desolation
5. A virgin birth! (Isaiah 7:10-17)

III. The Power of the Virgin Birth

A. Its impact on the Scriptures

1. Is the scripture trustworthy? (2 Peter 1:16-19)
 - Jesus birth, the things Jesus did, and the things done to him were all prophesied hundreds of years earlier beforehand
2. The loss of the virgin birth has far-reaching consequences
3. It helps account for the extraordinary life of Jesus

B. Its enduring impact on our lives

1. We don’t trust our emotions, our instincts, feelings
 - We trust the tested Word of God
2. We challenge the claims of other “religions
3. It addresses the most important questions of life and death
4. Is it more extraordinary than being “born again”?

The Creator of the universe put the seed of life in every living thing. Can he put that seed in the womb of a virgin? Can he put that seed of life, new life (to be born again) in the heart of those who are dead in their trespasses and sins? He can – and does! Hallelujah!