

## **THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST**

### **Luke 1:26-38**

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<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"\*

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. ESV

#### **Luke 1:35 KJV**

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

It is biologically impossible, through natural procreation, to produce a human baby without a human father. Man, in his invention of religions, has never devised a so improbable necessity! But Biblical Christianity (there is no other genuine Christianity) demands belief in the virgin birth of Christ. What is impossible for man is possible for God.

To some people the idea of forgiveness of sin involves only a "nod" from God, or even a man, apart from propitiation. God, however, has declared that He will not clear the guilty [Exodus 34:7]; and, that we are all guilty [Romans 3:23]; so the question becomes, "How can anyone be declared "not guilty?" If all sin must be punished there are only two possibilities:

- 1) each individual must be punished sufficiently to propitiate the sin; or,
- 2) a qualified Substitute must be punished in the place of the sinner.

What is the extent of the sin, i.e., what degree of punishment is necessary?  
Who is the offended one? GOD!

The dilemma is this. One human soul has the value of one. One person's just punishment for a single sin against an infinite God is eternal punishment. The place reserved for eternal punishment is hell. A qualified Substitute would have to have the value of more than one soul. If that Substitute were personally without sin, then the value of His soul would be infinite. What if God purposed a "Lamb" to be sufficient propitiation for the sin of the world?

But how could that Man be born without the sin of Adam? He must be truly a man because the "blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin" [Hebrews 10:4], but that Man must Himself be sinless. For a man to be without sin he must be born without a human father and live a sinless life. How can a true man (born of woman) be without the sin of Adam?

Luke 1:35 tells us that Jesus is "that holy thing." The same word is found in Hebrews 9:3, "the holiest of all," is the place where God meets man!

The necessity of the virgin birth of Jesus of Nazareth is that apart from it there could be no qualified sinless Substitute. If Jesus the Christ were not sinless His death for sin would have the value of one soul. But if the Son of God became a man without sin, His death would have the value of God, i.e., Infinite value.

Don't fall into the error of the Roman Catholic Church and worship the Virgin Mary as co-redemptress. They teach that for Jesus to be born without sin that Mary too, must be without sin. That only moves the problem of sinlessness back one generation. How did Mary become sinless? Besides, Mary acknowledges that she is a sinner when she calls God her Savior [Luke 1:47]. Only sinners need a Savior.

The Bible prophesied the virgin birth of Christ [Isaiah 7:14] as a sign. Matthew 1:18-25 announces the event. Like most questions of faith it comes down to believing the Bible. To deny the virgin birth of Christ is simply a denial of the Scriptures.

### **Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. **KJV**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example [have her stoned to death], was minded to put her away privily [issue a decree of divorce].

<sup>20</sup> But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>21</sup> And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

<sup>22</sup> Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

<sup>23</sup> Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

<sup>24</sup> Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

<sup>25</sup> And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. **KJV**

But with all this being true, what does a virgin-born Savior have to do with you? Do you need a Sinless Substitute? Do you need One whose blood has sufficient value for all your sin?

Some teach that Christ paid for your past sins, i.e., those sins committed before you were “saved,” and then you must live by certain rules (legalism) to deal with future sins in order to stay saved.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross; all your sins were yet future.

Salvation is not agreeing to a proposition. You cannot bargain with God. If you would be saved, it will be on God’s terms.

By Grace through faith alone! [Ephesians 2:1-10]

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup>among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup>But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. ESV

There was once a man that could not understand why God would save a sinful man like himself. Then he learned that God saves sinners. Then he asked why God wouldn't save him if being a sinner is all the qualification required of him.

The necessity of the virgin birth of Christ is bound up in the nature and depth of sin and sin’s just punishment.

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