

The Virgin Birth

Introduction:

A.

*The doctrine of the virgin birth is such a great mystery that 90% of the people of the world don't understand it and a great many Christians don't even understand it.

*It is a very basic doctrine, a foundation upon which other important doctrines of the Bible rest.

*If Jesus Christ was not virgin born, then He was not a sinless man.

*If there had been no virgin birth, Christ could not have provided a substitutionary atonement on the cross.

*Without a virgin birth, there would have been no resurrection from the dead.

*All these facts would have been impossible if Christ had not been born of a virgin.

B.

*If God had not been Christ's father, then He wouldn't have been a sinless man.

*He would not have received His sinless nature from God, His Father, but would have received a sinful nature from Joseph.

*The Bible says in Romans 3:23, "**For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.**"

*All are sinners, and Jesus would have been also, if God had not been His father.

C.

*If Jesus Christ had been a sinner, He couldn't have died as a substitutionary atonement for us;

*He would have needed someone sinless to make an atonement for Him.

*If Christ had not been sinless, He wouldn't have risen from the dead.

*The only reason He arose was because sin had no hold on Him - **Read Acts 2:22-24).**

D.

*Men and women are not born sinless.

*David says in **Psalm 51:5**, “**Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my my mother conceive me.**”

*That is true of all men.

*That is what makes Jesus Christ the most unique religious leader in the whole world.

*Mohammed does not claim to have been of a virgin.

*No religious leader ever makes that claim, except the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Every other person died because of his own sins and never came out of the grave.

*The bones of Mohammed are still in the tomb.

*In the tomb of Confucius or any other great religious leader rest the bones and ashes of a sinner just like any other person ever born, except Jesus Christ.

E.

*Men will never discover the remains of Jesus Christ, who is the head of the Church and the Saviour of the body.

*He came up!

*The angel said in **Luke 24:5,6**, “**Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.**”

*Christ was alive; He was not among the dead.

*He said in **John 14:6**, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life.**” - He isn't dead.

F.

*The virgin birth is the primary doctrinal basis for beliefs about Jesus Christ.

*Some Christians say that a person doesn't need to believe in the virgin birth to be a Christian.

*A belief in the virgin birth must precede a belief in the substitutionary atonement because the atonement would not have been effectual if Jesus Christ had not been sinless.

*A sinless person, like the Old Testament sacrificial lamb without spot or blemish, had to die--not just another wretched sinner.

G.

*The actual announcement of the virgin birth to Mary is given in **Luke 1:26-37: Read**

1. In verse 27, the Bible says that a virgin, whose name is Mary, receives the announcement from the angel Gabriel.

*She was “**espoused**” or engaged to Joseph, and she was still a virgin.

*She had not had relations with anyone, according to the scriptures.

2. Verse 28 - gives the angel’s greeting to Mary.

*Imagine her thoughts when the angel appeared.

*She is an ordinary Jewish woman engaged to be married and anticipating her wedding day with much joy.

*She’s thinking about all the arrangements to be made when suddenly an angel appears and says, “**Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.**”

3. Verse 29 - says she was troubled at his saying.

*She was a nobody.

*When God picked out someone to bring His lovely Son into this earth, He chose just a common, ordinary, work-a-day maiden.

*He didn’t pick out a queen, just a common person.

*Mary was troubled over the appearance of the angel and wondered what it was all about.

4. Verse 30 and 31 - give the purpose for the angel’s visit.

*A lot of Jewish babies at this time were being named “Jesus”.

*The Jews knew the Messiah was going to come and his name would be the “Joshua” of the Old Testament.

*"Joshua" is the Hebrew word for "Jehovah saves" and "Jesus" is the Greek word for the same.

*That is why in the King James Bible the word "Jesus" appears in Acts 7:45 and Hebrews 4:8 in the place of "Joshua"--they mean the same.

*Mary understands the importance of this name.

-3-

5. Verse 31 - says that Jesus will be great and that He shall be called the "Son of the Highest."

*He is promised the throne of His father David.

*That promise is yet to be fulfilled.

*Jesus Christ has never sat on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

*This throne is an earthly, Palestinian throne, not the throne of God.

*This world is not going to continue on like it is.

*This prophecy will be fulfilled just like almost 300 prophecies that have already come to pass.

*God promised it, so it will happen.

6. Verse 33 - refers to Jesus Christ's rule which will start the 1000 year reign in Jerusalem.

*This is an earthly kingdom yet to come. (Rev. 20:1-6).

7. The angel tells Mary in verse 35 - that this conception will be possible because of the power of the Holy Ghost and that the baby born of her will be a "**holy thing**".

H.

***Matthew 1:18-25, records the birth of Jesus Christ:**

1. Verse 18 - tells that the birth was "**on this wise**" or "this way --

*Mary was espoused, or engaged to Joseph and they had not yet come together, or had sexual relations.

*At this time she was found with child of the Holy Ghost, as recorded in Luke 1:35.

2. In Verse 19 - after Joseph had discovered Mary's pregnancy, he was thinking about putting her away privately instead of making a public example of her.

*According to the laws of the Old Testament, he had the right to have her stoned.

*The Bible says he was a just man, though, and was not willing to bring her to public shame.

3. In verse 20, - the Lord is going to get Mary out of trouble.

*God has given her a job to do, the fulfilling of the prophecies concerning the virgin birth, and she is in danger of being stoned to death for it.

*But God is faithful since she is doing His will, and He is going to protect her.

I.

1. This is a good example for a Christian who is in trouble because he has obeyed the Lord.

*When God gets a person into trouble, He will get him out.

*There is no reason for running from the situation.

*Wait on the Lord!

*Joseph, the son of Jacob, waited and he came out the second highest ruler in Egypt.

*Daniel waited and he ended up third ruler in Babylon.

2. The angel appeared unto Joseph in a dream.

***Job 33:14-17**, teaches that God used dreams to instruct men: - **Read.**

3. God used dreams in the Old Testament to instruct, but He doesn't need to use them today because His revelation is in the Bible.

*He might use dreams, but He doesn't need to, and if He does, they will agree completely with what He has revealed in the Bible.

4. In verse 20 - the angel tells Joseph that the baby which is conceived in Mary is of the Holy Ghost.

*The seed was not from man; it was from Almighty God.

*This is why Jesus is called the Son of God.

*This is the doctrine of the virgin birth, the fact that God was incarnate, or came to dwell in the flesh.

5. In verse 21, tells why Jesus came to earth.

*He came to **“save his people from their sins.”**

*He was born to save the nations of Israel.

*They are His special people.

*He called them out and started them with Abraham.

*His Son was a Jew and every writer of the Bible was a Jew.

*It was only after the Jews rejected the Gospel that it went to the Gentiles.

*The Bible says in **John 4:22** that **“salvation is of the Jews.”**

*The Saviour who died for the sins of the world was a Jew.

6. Verse 22 - tells us that **“all this was done,”** referring to Mary’s conception, to fulfill prophecies made in the Old Testament.

*The angel goes on to quote **Isaiah 7:14**, the actual prophecy.

7. Verse 24 and 25 - tell of Joseph’s reaction to the angel’s visit to him.

*He believed the angel and obeyed **“and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son...”**

*This tells that Mary was not a perpetual virgin as the Catholic Church teaches.

*She and Joseph had relations after the birth of Jesus.

8. The Catholic Church teaches that Mary was sinless as a result of the “Immaculate Conception.”

*This doctrine means that “at the very first instant when her soul was infused into her body, the Virgin Mary was sanctified by God’s grace, so that her soul was never deprived of the sanctification which all other creatures had forfeited by the sin of Adam.

*Her soul was never displeasing to God, because it had never been stained with original sin.” (Rev. **Bertrand L. Conway, C.S.P., The Question Box**(New York: Paulist Press, 1962), p.279).

*The Bible does not teach this doctrine; it teaches exactly the opposite, but they put the traditions of men in place of doctrines of God as in **Mark 7:6-13**.

*They even confess that the Scriptures do not teach this doctrine.

*"The Scriptures nowhere expressly teach this doctrine, but Pius IX cites two passages, from which it may be inferred, if they are considered in the light of Catholic tradition" (**Conway, p.279**).

J.

1. The Bible teaches in **Luke 1:46-47** that Mary had need of a Saviour, like all other sinners.

"And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."

2. In **Luke 2:21,22** - Mary had to accomplish the days of purification:

***Read Luke 2:21,22.**

*If Mary had been sinless, she wouldn't have needed to fulfill this law.

*The Mosaic laws were for sinners so that God wouldn't condemn them.

*Mary wasn't sinless; she was just a vessel God used to bring the Lord Jesus Christ into the world.

I. THE PARADOX OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

A.

1. **The virgin birth is a paradox, statement that seems contradictory.**

*The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was a man, and that He also was God.

*One man experienced everything that a man experiences, and yet that man was God.

*Imagine what it would be to work next to someone like that.

*He had all the physical characteristics of a man, yet He never made a mistake.

*From a baby, He never made one mistake or committed one sin.

*Yet He had feelings, emotions, pains just like any other man.

*To the natural man, it doesn't make sense.

***I Timothy 3:16** is the greatest passage on the incarnation and deity of Jesus Christ. - **Read.**

2. The incarnation of Christ is a great mystery; there is no argument about it.

*God was manifest in the flesh.

*He was justified in the Spirit.

*This is explained in **Romans 1:3,4:** - **Read.**

3. Jesus Christ had within Him a spirit of holiness which enabled Him to live a sinless life.

*That was His proof that He was God manifest in the flesh.

*His spirit was not contrary to the law of God; it was in full agreement with the Law of God.

*He never one time defied the Lord or the Lord's law.

*He said, "**not my will, but thine be done.**"

*That justified Him and proved that He was God in the flesh because no man can do that by himself.

*There is within every man a spirit of enmity against God.

*When God says, "Do this." man's spirit says, "No".

*When God says, "Don't do this," man's spirit says, "I will anyway." **8**

*It's like the temptation to touch anything that says, "Wet Paint-Don't Touch".

*All men have a sinful nature.

*They are children of wrath, children of disobedience.

*Jesus Christ did not have that nature.

*His Spirit showed that He wasn't born of man.

4. The virgin birth is a paradox.

*The two natures of Christ seem to contradict.

*He actually experienced hunger, yet He said in **John 6:48**, “**I am that bread of life.**”

*He could supply men with bread so that they would never hunger and yet He was hungry.

5. On the cross, He said, “I thirst.”

*Yet in **John 7:37,38**, He said, “**If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**”

*Here was a man who had all the water a man would ever need, yet He thirsted.

*That is a paradox.

6. Jesus Christ died on the cross, yet He said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

*He was life incarnate; there was no sin in His nature.

*Yet He died. A paradox!

7. The Bible says Jesus became very weary yet He said in Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

*There was a human side to the Son of God; He was also the son of man.

*He refers to Himself many times as the son of man.

*He had a human body and experienced temptation like other men.

***Hebrews 4:15** says, “**but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**”

*He was a human being, but He had the spirit of the Almighty God in him.

*That’s why the virgin birth is such a mystery.

8. The solution to the mystery lies in the spiritual realm, not the physical.

***Read I Corinthians 2:12-14**

*The Bible tells us that we may know the things freely given to us of God.

*One of these things is the virgin birth.

*The Scriptures are very clear that it is a fact.

9. The Holy Ghost teaches these things by comparing spiritual things with spiritual .

*The only spiritual things available to compare are the words in the Bible.

*Jesus said, **“the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)**

*The only way to understand the virgin birth is to compare Scripture with Scripture.

10. Secondly, in I Corinthians 2:14, the Bible says, “the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God...because they are spiritually discerned.”

*The natural or unsaved man cannot understand the things of the Bible because he does not have the Spirit of God to reveal the truth to him.

*The words of the Bible must be revealed supernaturally by the Spirit of God, who will open the man’s understanding. (Ephesians 1:13-18).

11. Thirdly, II Timothy 2:15 says, “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

*It takes study to understand some of things in the Bible.

*The Bible also has to be rightly divided.

*Some of the Bible tells about the human nature of Jesus.

*He experienced temptation, hunger, thirst.

*He was hurt.

*People denied and rejected Him and He never did any harm.

*None of the trouble that came to Him was the result of anything He had ever done.

*Everywhere He went, He did good.

*Then people would run Him out of town.

*He would heal someone and they would say, **“never a man did anything like this.”**

*Then they would run Him off.

*He suffered rejection as a man, yet He was God.

B.

1. Here was a man who could suffer pain, hunger and thirst, yet He had the solution to all those problems because He was also God.

*The Bible says He was God manifest in the flesh.

*The only way to understand it is by the revelation of the Holy Spirit that the Bible must be rightly divided.

*His human nature is different from His divine nature.

*He was tempted in all points--that's the human side--yet without sin--that's the godly side.

*He was a man, so He died.

*He was God, so He arose from the dead.

C.

1. The liberals and modernists don't understand the paradox, so they say He was a great philosopher, prophet, and teacher or the great master.

*He is more than a great man: He is God.

*All His greatness depends on the virgin birth.

*The angels said to Mary, "**he shall be great.**"

*That's an understatement.