

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH

“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.”

- Matthew 1:23

1. Why is it important?

- a. The virgin birth is often combined with the fundamental of the deity of Jesus
- b. It affects the doctrine of the literal interpretation of scripture
- c. It affects the doctrine of Christ's nature as God
- d. It affects the doctrine of the sinlessness of Jesus
- e. It affects the doctrine of the miracles of Jesus
- f. If it didn't happen Jesus was illegitimate. – Mat 1:19

2. Scriptural Support

- a. “Her seed” - Genesis 3:15 *skeptics question the event
- b. “a virgin shall conceive” - Isaiah 7:14 *skeptics question the translation
- c. Matthew 1:16 *skeptics question the translation
- d. “he knew her not” – Joseph's account - Matthew 1:18-25
- e. Mary's account – Luke 1:26-38
- f. “Joseph and his mother” - Luke 2:33, 43 *skeptics question the translation
- g. “made of a woman” – Gal 4:4
- h. Other miraculous births: Adam, Eve, Isaac (Sarah), Jacob (Rachel), Moses, Samuel(Hannah), John (Elizabeth), Jesus (Mary)

3. Jesus' Deity and the Virgin Birth

- a. The difference: Jesus is not the Son of God BECAUSE of the virginity of Mary
- b. Incarnation = God becoming flesh – John 1:14
- c. Jesus is not the Son *because* the Holy Ghost conceived in Mary, he is regardless
- d. The relationship: The virgin birth is like the empty tomb; it is a sign of who he is

4. False Views – Explanations

- a. Jesus was sinless because of the virgin birth – be careful, Jesus was always sinless!
- b. It does not glorify Mary – Luke 1:28-30, 2nd-3rd century Christianity elevated Mary
 - i. Jesus had brothers and sisters – Matt 13:55-56, Gal 1:19, Acts 1:14
 - ii. The immaculate conception and myths about the birth were popular
- c. It is not the mating of God and a woman – Mormon teaching, pagan ideas
- d. It does not elevate celibacy above marriage – Mat 12:46, Luke 8:19, Mat 13:35-56
- e. It is not an allegory – the events offer no explanation

5. What it Teaches

- a. God's involvement in Jesus' birth and salvation – Mat 1:23
- b. A sign of the divinity of Christ – Mat 1:23, but also John 1:13
- c. A sign of the sinlessness of Christ – Heb 4:15, 1 Pet 2:22, 1 John 3:5, 2 Cor 5:21
- d. A picture of God's grace – John 1:13
- e. The second Adam doctrine – 1 Cor 15:47, Rom 5:12