

**A MOST IMPORTANT FACT
(Luke 1:26-35)**

I. The suggestions of others.

- A. The first to suggest any discrepancy with this fact did so, more than likely knowing nothing of the fact.
 - 1. In John 8, Jesus is recorded having a discussion with Jews that were against Him.
 - 2. Notice verse 41.
 - 3. Also, notice verse 48 - a Samaritan was half Jewish and half Gentile.
 - 4. They believed Jesus was a result of an act of fornication.
- B. Later on, a group of supposed Christians known as Ebionites, who were really Gnostics, taught that Jesus was simply a man born like all others because they felt that deity and humanity could not exist together.
- C. In the 6th century, a mocking gospel account was written by a Jew who wrote that Jesus was the result of a union of Mary and a Roman soldier named Pantera.
 - 1. This was picked up by another writer in the 11th century.
 - 2. This was an easy story to concoct because Nazareth was on a main road from Jerusalem to Tyre and Sidon, heavily traveled by Roman soldiers.
- D. These type stories continued until the modernist movement began in the late 1800's.
 - 1. This movement of theologians was dedicated to modern thinking, hence the name.
 - 2. Thus, in our day and age, there could be no such thing as miracles, thus there could be no virgin birth..
- E. One of these modernists preached a sermon entitled, "Shall The Fundamentalists Win?"
 - 1. In this sermon he admitted that there was a group of Christians who believed the virgin birth was literal.
 - 2. But notice this quote: "But, side by side with them in the evangelical churches is a group of equally loyal and reverent people who would say that the virgin birth is not to be accepted as an historic fact. To believe in the virgin birth as an explanation of great personality is one of the familiar ways in which the ancient world was accustomed to account for unusual superiority."
 - 3. He went on to state that the first disciples loved Jesus and wrote of His superiority in "terms of a biological miracle that our modern minds cannot use."
 - 4. He preached this sermon in 1922.
- F. Brigham Young, one of the most famous Mormon teachers, taught that Jesus was conceived in a physical manner but between God and Mary.
 - 1. "The birth of the Savior was as natural as are the births of our children; it was the result of natural action. He partook of flesh and

blood - was begotten of the Father as we were of our fathers”
Journal of Discourses, V. 8.

2. He also wrote, “He is the only begotten of the Father which could not have been if the Father did not actually beget him in person”
Journal of Discourses, V. 1.

- G. Attacks have been leveled against this belief in saying that Christianity borrowed this doctrine from pagan myths of the day whose gods were formed by virgin births.
- H. Postmodernist thought, which is found in what is called the Emergent Church, attacks the idea of a virgin birth as well.

II. The significance of the virgin birth.

- A. If there was no virgin birth there is no salvation, that is how significant this event is.
 1. Matthew tells us that the angel who spoke to Joseph said Jesus would save people from sin (Matthew 1:21).
 2. The only way He could that was to be sinless.
 3. If He was the result of a male and female coming together, there is no way He could be sinless because all mere humans have sinned (Romans 3:23).
- B. If there is on virgin birth, there is no infallible guide to heaven.
 1. The Bible makes the claim for a virgin birth.
 2. If it lied to us in Matthew 1, what about Matthew 16, Acts 2 or any other chapter in it?
 3. How would we know what to believe?
- C. If there was no virgin birth, Jesus was not deity.
 1. God Himself made the claim that Jesus was His Son.
 2. Jesus made that same claim.
 3. He could not be what He said He was with a human father.
- D. If there is no virgin birth, there is no church.
 1. Jesus made the claim that He would build His church on the basis of what was revealed to and by Peter.
 2. That was, that Jesus was the Son of God.
 3. There is nothing on which to build the church if Jesus had a human father.
- E. If there was no virgin birth, we have no High Priest.
 1. The Hebrews writer tells us Jesus is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:15).
 2. He is such because He is sinless even though tempted just as we are.
 3. He would have given in to temptation if a mere human.

III. The scriptures that prove the virgin birth.

- A. There are two very important Old Testament passages that prophesy of a virgin birth for the Messiah.
 1. Genesis 3:15.
 - a. Notice the phrase “her seed.”
 - b. This is never the way we would say that because the seed is

- said to belong to the man.
 - c. However, God was letting us know there would be no man involved in the creative process of the one that would bruise Satan's head.
 - 2. Isaiah 7:14.
 - a. Ahaz, king of Judah, was told by Isaiah that Judah would survive for some time.
 - b. He was told to ask for a sign and did not so Isaiah told him the sign would be from God and that it would be a virgin giving birth to a son.
 - c. The word sign indicates this is much more than natural birth.
 - d. This would be done when the lands that Ahaz hated would have no kings.
 - e. Much is said about the word "virgin" by those that say there is no virgin birth.
 - (1) The RSV rendered it "young woman."
 - (2) This Hebrew word is used in six other places, each one referring to an unmarried girl.
 - 3. Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2 point to the fact that the one coming existed before birth so they are important as well.
- B. In the New Testament, notice how specific the wording is in Matthew 1:20 and Luke 1:30-35.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and Mary made the claim that she had never known a man.
 - 2. This last phrase carries the idea of sexual knowledge.
 - 3. Not only that, the angel told Joseph this was a fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14.
- C. Notice also, Galatians 4:4 and Matthew 1:16.
 - 1. Paul stated that Jesus was born of a woman with no mention of a man.
 - 2. Matthew's genealogy stated that Joseph was begotten by Jacob and Joseph was Mary's husband and Jesus was born to her.