

THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS

(Matthew 1:18-25)

1) The prophecy of the virgin birth.

- a) We must start back in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15).
 - i) Notice that God told Satan that He would put enmity between him and the woman and between his seed and her seed.
 - ii) Notice that it is the seed of woman and that the seed would be a he.
 - iii) The first promise of a Redeemer is also a foreshadowing of the virgin birth.
- b) Another prophecy that is vital is found in Isaiah 7:14.
 - i) This verse has long been contested.
 - ii) Some translations have young woman instead of virgin and this is on purpose.
 - iii) Notice the setting of the prophecy.
 - (1) The chapter starts out with a warning to King Ahaz not to depend on Assyria for protection from the Northern Kingdom and Syria.
 - (2) Isaiah told Ahaz to ask for a sign that God would defend Judah but he refused.
 - (3) Isaiah then gave this prophecy.
 - (4) The word “sign” indicates something greater than just a female getting pregnant in the natural manner.
 - (5) It was to be a virgin who would become such.
 - (6) Also, this prophecy was a sign to Judah that it would not be destroyed.
 - (7) It was going to last at least until the virgin conceived and gave birth to a son.
- c) The word translated “virgin” was never used of a married woman.
 - i) It can’t be simply translated “young woman” but it would have to be “young unmarried woman”.
 - ii) The child was to be named “Immanuel” which means “God with us”.
 - iii) How could it be God with us if it was a natural conception like every other conception in the history of mankind.
- d) Also, one must take into consideration Isaiah 9:6 and Micah 5:2.
 - i) The Child prophesied is divine being “Mighty God”.
 - ii) He is the pre-existent One because His goings forth are of old, from everlasting.
 - iii) Jesus came forth from Bethlehem, born of a virgin just as all these passages foretold.

2) The profession of the virgin birth.

- a) There are only two accounts of the virgin birth of Jesus: Matthew’s and Luke’s.
- b) They can be summarized this way:
 - i) Before Mary and Joseph were together in marriage Mary was found with child of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).
 - ii) Mary had not been impure, but conceived only when the Holy Spirit came upon her and overshadowed her by the power of God (Luke 1:34-35).

- iii) Joseph was not going to have her killed as he could have, but was going to put her away privately (Matthew 1:19).
 - iv) An angel appeared to him and told him that the baby in her is of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).
 - v) The angel told him that Mary would give birth to a son and that His name was to be called Jesus because He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).
 - vi) All this was going to come to pass that the prophecy spoken by Isaiah might come to pass (Matthew 1:22-23).
 - vii) It is specifically stated that Joseph and Mary had no sexual relations until after she had brought forth a son (Matthew 1:25).
 - viii) Elizabeth was inspired to acknowledge the divine influence on Mary (Luke 1:41-43).
 - ix) An angel of the Lord announced the birth of Jesus as the Savior, Christ the Lord (Luke 2:8-11).
 - x) Luke was inspired to connect Joseph with Jesus by this phrase "...being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph" (Luke 3:23).
- c) Some have questioned the virgin birth because these are the only two passages that tell us about it.
- i) The question back to someone who says that is, "So what?"
 - ii) There does not have to be numerous scriptures that teach something for it to be true.
 - iii) These two, or even if there were only one, are enough.
- d) However, other passages profess to us the fact of the virgin birth.
- i) Galatians 4:4 – born of a woman.
 - ii) Matthew 1:16 – Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus.
- e) All of these passages go together to profess to us the fact that Jesus was virgin born.

3) The pertinence of the virgin birth.

- a) If we fail to teach or defend this doctrine, Christianity falls.
- b) The virgin birth involves the authority of the scriptures.
 - i) If we can't believe what Matthew and Luke wrote about His birth, how can we have assurance concerning what they wrote about His life and death?
 - ii) Jesus either was born of a virgin or He was not.
 - iii) If He wasn't the Bible is not accurate and therefore cannot be trusted.
- c) The virgin birth involves the deity of Jesus.
 - i) Think of the numerous times Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of God.
 - ii) God Himself acknowledged Jesus as His Son on two occasions.
 - iii) If Jesus had a human father, He is a liar and not what He claimed to be.
- d) The virgin birth involves Jesus's role as Savior.
 - i) One of the things the angel told Joseph is that the child would save His people from their sins.

- ii)** If Jesus was some ordinary man, how could He save others when He couldn't even save Himself?
- iii)** The blood that He used to redeem us is "without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19).
- iv)** This cannot be said about the blood of any mere human.

Some of this material came from a manuscript by Alan Highers in the 1973 Freed Hardeman Lectureship book.