



## WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT...? "The Virgin Birth"

Mathew 1:18-25 &  
Luke 2:26-38

December 14, 2014

### The Plan of God Unfolds

- ✓ God Chose Mary and Joseph
- ✓ Gabriel Appears to Each of Them (Joseph's in a Dream)
- ✓ You Will Conceive a Son: He Will Be the Son of God

### The Predicament

- ✓ They Were Only Betrothed
- ✓ Mary was a virgin

### The Prophecies

*"I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite their heel."*

Genesis 3:15 (TEV)

*"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."* Isaiah 7:14 (NASU)

### The Promise

- ✓ The Lord is the One Who Is Going to Do This
- ✓ The Lord Will Be With You
- ✓ Nothing is Impossible with God

### The Proof for Mary

- ✓ Elizabeth, Your Relative is Pregnant Now

### The Purpose

- ✓ He Had to Be Fully God & Fully Man
- ✓ Thus, He Was the Only One Who Could Be the Redeemer, the Savior, the Messiah, the Sacrifice

### The Proof for Us

- ✓ Mary & Joseph
- ✓ The Gospel Accounts
- ✓ The Slandorous Remarks Made About Him
- ✓ Paul – Galatians 4:4
- ✓ The Acceptance of the Early Church
- ✓ The Early Church Fathers
- ✓ The Apostles Creed & the Nicæan Creed
- ✓ Compared to mythology of other stories of the births of religious figure, nothing compares to that of Jesus Christ
- ✓ The Koran, the holy book of the Muslims state that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary

### The Significance

- ✓ God Has Always Been – He was not created. God Is Right Now. God Will Always Be – He is Eternal
- ✓ We must believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ! Without that belief, the rest of the Gospel falls apart.
- ✓ The Virgin Conception of Jesus was a miracle and one that we will never full understand – that's why it's a miracle. It's a part of our Faith Journey.
- ✓ We must stand firm on these truths and not waver from them in the midst of a world that tries to deny Christ. People then and now have tried to discredit his Deity and His humanity.

# WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

## “What's the Big Deal About the Virgin Birth”

Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 2:-26-38

December 14, 2014 AM Worship

**ILLUS: DaVinci Code and a Conversation** A fiction book written by author Dan Brown released in 2003 and spent 166 weeks on the NY Times Best Seller list (7<sup>th</sup> highest of all times) who said it should have been non-fiction that he believes to be true. It included material about Christ alleging that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and they had children among other false things in the book and that it was a huge cover-up from the church lasting back into the early days of the church.

**I had a conversation with someone** when the book first came out and the statement was made, well it's not that big of a deal, the Bible does not say that He was wasn't married. If He was, that's no big deal to me. They were a believer! Hello! Danger, danger!

This is the fear of this type of book and others where one can begin to slide down a treacherous slope. No, it does not say, but think about it, if that happened wouldn't that be important? And furthermore, would Jesus (God in the flesh) marry and have children? It doesn't say in Scripture that He didn't – my response it didn't say that He did and don't you think if He did that it would have been included! It is why I wanted us to address what perhaps is the most important doctrine or truth that we base our Christian faith upon. If it breaks down here, or we say well it is not really that important the rest of His life then subsequent death all begins to unravel.

**Various polls have found that about 80% of American** adults believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. This exceeds the total number of American adults who identify themselves as Christian or Muslim. In fact, 47% of non-Christian adults also believe in the virgin birth.

**Only 56% of Americans says that God's Son existed before Jesus was born in Bethlehem**

**Quote:** “Larry King, the former CNN talk show host, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, ‘Jesus Christ.’ The questioner said, ‘And what would you like to ask Him?’ King replied, ‘I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me.’”

You see even he understands that this question is perhaps one if not the most important question to answer and really it all begins here!

### **The Plan of God Unfolds**

- ✓ **God Chose Mary and Joseph** - Not just right before this moment but before time begin He knew they would be the ones.
- ✓ **Gabriel Appears to Each of Them** (Joseph's in a Dream). Can you imagine having an angel appear to you? We often focus on Mary and we should but what a godly and righteous man Joseph was. (Not perfect any more than Mary was) but he was obedient too just as Mary was and followed God's call even when it didn't make sense to him.
- ✓ **You Will Conceive a Son: He Will Be the Son of God** This had to be staggering news, amazing, scary, impossible news and yet exciting too because they had like most Jews had been anticipating the coming of the Messiah. Not sure they expected Him this way, probably didn't, but nonetheless they knew that He was going to be God's Son. We understands it is the conception we are talking about, we use the word birth but really is the conception.

### **The Predicament**

- ✓ **They Were Only Betrothed** – Describe Marriage in those days – 3 steps. First was engagement – prearranged with families ahead of time with the giving of a dowry. After that happens, then for up to a year, they were betrothed and it was legally binding as if they were married. You had to divorce someone to get out of this stage. During this year, they lived apart and the man got his house ready to then at the end of that time there was a 7 day marriage ceremony and then they were able to consummate the marriage.
- ✓ **Mary Was a Virgin**  
She had never been with a man, a woman who was pure and undefiled and because of that she couldn't possibly be pregnant. This would be cause if she is pregnant to be stoned to death. Joseph would leave her. Joseph loved her and it is obvious by what he was planning to do. He was heartbroken. But what other choice did he have?

### **The Prophecies**

There are many prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus but we will look

at just these 2 concerning the virgin birth of Jesus. All of these clearly showing that it had been foretold for hundreds and even more than a thousand years before Christ came that He would come and how He would come. Clearly these were written well before the time of Christ. Look at these incredible promises.

*“I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite their heel.”* Genesis 3:15 (TEV)

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”* Isaiah 7:14 (NASU)

### **The Promise & God’s Power**

- ✓ **The Lord is the One Who Is Going to Do This** The Holy Spirit will overshadow you and miraculously do this in your womb. It was not from Joseph and in fact Matthew and Luke both tell us that he took her to be his wife and didn’t have any relations with her until after Jesus was born.
- ✓ **The Lord Will be With You** The promise of the Lord for Mary and Joseph and the same promise for you and me! The Lord is not going to be abandon you or leave you but He is going to walk with you every step of the way. (Talk briefly about Catholic teaching – she was born perfect, she was a perpetual virgin, she never died and she became co-mediatrix – Co-Redeemer with Jesus – all not in the Bible – **Pope John Paul II “in the union of Christ and in submission to Him, she collaborated in obtaining the grace of salvation for all humanity.”**)
- ✓ **Nothing is Impossible With God – Proof from Sarah, Hannah (mother of Samuel and others who were barren)** but this will be far, far greater than that!! Though to Mary and surely Joseph this was impossible! No way this could happen, wasn’t physically possible and what would people say and do, and so many questions – but look at the promise. Oh yes impossible in our eyes, but never in God’s eyes. It’s not based on us, but on Him and who He is and what He does! The same promise is true for us! What’s impossible in your life?

### **The Proof for Mary**

- ✓ **Elizabeth, Your Relative Is Pregnant Now**

There is so much here but time will not allow but we see another barren woman who is older and past bearing age given a son and she was to be the mother of John the Baptist – the forerunner of Jesus. Mary didn't know this was the case and she goes to visit and John leaps in her mother's womb and we see yet another confirmation for Mary.

### **The Purpose**

#### ✓ **He Had to Be Fully God & Fully Man**

Because God was His Father, He did not inherit Adam's sin nature and thus He could be the spotless Lamb of God. Because Jesus is God, his becoming human, his perfect life, and his sacrificial death are the actions of God involving Himself personally in the solution of our problem.

#### ✓ **Thus, He Was the Only One Who Could Be the Redeemer, the Savior, the Messiah, the Sacrifice** Only God could satisfy His own standard of perfection, Only God could offer Himself as a full payment that would satisfy His righteous demands, fully appeasing His own wrath against our sin. God the judge, passed the death sentence against us, then God, the Savior, came down to stand in front of us and absorb the sentence Himself. Jesus was the only One who qualified to do this.

### **The Proof for Us**

- ✓ **Mary & Joseph** – risked their lives
- ✓ **The Gospel Accounts** Not only Matthew and Luke which clearly state it but see [Mark 4:22](#) “[Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary...](#)” Appears he goes to lengths to show he was not Joseph's son, you would always say the son of Joseph. Even in John 1 and John 3:16 the word begotten
- ✓ **The Slandering Remarks Made About Him** Both in the Gospels and then other writings afterwards trying to discredit His virgin birth.
- ✓ **Paul** – [Galatians 4:4](#) . Just because it is not mentioned does not mean that it is an important doctrine. It was accepted and there seemed to be little need at that point to defend it or correct it. [Colossians 1:15-19](#); [Hebrews 1:1-13](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#) & [1 John 1:1-3](#)
- ✓ **The Acceptance of the Early Church** (there was little done to defend it – it was widely and quickly accepted as fact very few and only small sects opposed the Virgin birth)

- ✓ **The Early Church Fathers state it's a truth** and important doctrine – people like Ignatius, Tertullian and Irenaeus all in the 2<sup>nd</sup> early 2<sup>nd</sup> century
- ✓ **The Apostles Creed** which states that “He was born of the Virgin Mary” & **the Nicæan Creed** states “Jesus was the very God of very God...and was made a man.”
- ✓ **Compared to mythology of other stories of the births of religious figure, nothing compares to that of Jesus Christ.** The other stories, they were immoral and so repulsive, compared to this precious account.
- ✓ **Even the Koran, the holy book of the Muslims state that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary**

### **The Significance**

- ✓ **God Has Always Been – He was not created. God Is Right Now. God Will Always Be – He is Eternal** and yet he chose this way to save the world – what a strange way to save the world the song says – but oh the love of our Father – our response should be one of great worship for that incredible and indescribable love!
- ✓ **We must believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ! Without that belief, the rest of the Gospel falls apart.** He would have been born of man thus in the line of Adam and thus a sinner. **Quote: McArthur**
- ✓ **The Virgin Conception of Jesus was a miracle and one that we will never full understand – that's why it's a miracle.** It's a part of our Faith Journey. We cannot explain everything and we don't have to. This simply defies our understanding of the world. How did this happen? How is it possible? I don't know, but I have the faith to believe it and accept it.
- ✓ **We must stand firm on these truths and not waver from them in the midst of a world that tries to deny Christ.** People then and now have tried to discredit his Deity and His humanity. People try to explain away that which we they cannot understand or explain by science, but that is what makes it a miracle and that is exactly what happened.

**Let's make the connection for you and me about our birth.**

When is your birthday? Say it out loud.

When is your 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday? You say, what?

Turn over to John 3 and the story of Jesus and Nicodemus.

One Miracle Jesus never did was make someone younger, to let them go backward, but instead He did something greater, He let us be reborn!

Read the story, explain it.

Without Jesus' miraculous birth, my birth would not be possible.

You know, most people don't have a problem with Christmas and even that Jesus was born.

The problem is, too often they see those who carry the name Christian, who claim to believe in this miraculous birth and have had their second birth simply don't seem that different and it just doesn't seem to affect their lives very much.