

## The Virgin Birth Of Christ

### Introduction.

1. I would like for us to begin a study of "The Virgin Birth Of Christ. "
2. This is a subject of great and un-surpassing importance.
  - a. If Jesus of Nazareth was the son of Joseph and therefore not the Son of God, then He was an imposter.
  - b. If He was an imposter, then man does not have a Savior and is yet in his sins.
  - c. If He was an imposter, then He was not the Son of God and He was a liar, for He claimed to be the Son of God.
3. On the other hand, if Jesus was begotten by the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary, then He is the Son of God and worthy of the praise and adoration and obedience of every person on earth.
4. It is, therefore, absurd for the Christian to accept the erroneous and wicked view that the virgin birth of Christ is unimportant and a matter of indifference.
  - a. Like the vicarious death and resurrection of Jesus this is a foundational doctrine of Christianity.
  - b. Christianity stands or falls with the truth on this vital subject.
  - c. Trivialization of the virgin birth of Christ trivializes Christianity and makes it a religion for this world only.

### Note on Foundational Doctrines

1. Paul lists seven foundational doctrines in Ephesians 4:4-6.
2. Other foundational doctrines are the virgin birth of Christ, His Deity, His miracles, His death, burial, resurrection and ascension.
3. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Christian is a foundational doctrine. (Rom. 8:9).
4. The gospel as the power of God unto salvation is foundational. (Rom. 1:16).
5. The new birth is foundational. (Jn. 3:5).
6. This is not an exhaustive list of foundational doctrines, but is a list of some doctrines that are foundational.
7. Not every doctrine is foundational - number of cups, literature, Bible classes, screens, song books, etc.

### Definition Of The Virgin Birth

1. There have been a number of miraculous births.
  - a. **Isaac** (Gen. 17:17; 18:11; Rom. 4:19; Heb. 11:11,12).

GEN 17:17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

GEN 18:11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing.

ROM 4:19 And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb;

HEB 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised;

HEB 11:12 therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

**b. Samuel** (1 Sam. 1:6,7,11, 17-18, 19-20).

1SA 1:6 Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb.

1SA 1:7 And it happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she would provoke her, so she wept and would not eat.

1SA 1:11 And she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if Thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of Thy maidservant and remember me, and not forget Thy maidservant, but wilt give Thy maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

1SA 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him."

1SA 1:18 And she said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

1SA 1:19 Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her.

1SA 1:20 And it came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord."

**c. John the Baptist** (Lk. 1:7,18).

LUK 1:7 And they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

LUK 1:18 And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years."

2. A virgin birth is simply defined as a birth without a human father.

3. There has been only one virgin birth - the birth of Jesus Christ.

**Modern View Of The Virgin Birth**

1. Modernists deny the virgin birth of Christ.

2. They argue the narratives of the virgin birth in the gospels arose in much the same way as the old legends and myths about the supernatural births of famous personages of the pagan world.

3. Some go so far as to say that the doctrine is a stumbling block to faith.

a. Intelligent people will reject Jesus if they are forced to believe in a virgin birth as an absolute tenet of faith.

b. It is argued that intelligent people cannot believe in the miraculous; therefore, such things, as the virgin birth,

the miracles of Jesus, His bodily resurrection, etc. must be rejected.

c. It is argued that we live in an enlightened world that cannot accept such non-sense as a virgin birth.

4. Modernists affirm Jesus had a human father.

a. Many contend Joseph was the real father.

b. Others insist some other man was the father of Jesus and Joseph married Mary out of mercy and to cover her shame.

c. They scoff at the virgin birth because it calls for a biological miracle.

### **New Testament Teaching On The Subject**

1. Matthew records the virgin birth of Jesus. (Matt. 1:18-25).

MAT 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

MAT 1:19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly.

MAT 1:20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

MAT 1:21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

MAT 1:22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,

MAT 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

MAT 1:24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife,

MAT 1:25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

2. Matthew introduces us to Mary and Joseph.

a. Mary comes from the Greek "maria" and is the equivalent of the Old Testament name "Miriam."

1) She was from Nazareth. (Lk. 2:4).

2) The Bible does not say, but she was likely young since most Hebrew girls married at a young age.

3) Joseph was living in Nazareth when he became betrothed to Mary. (Lk. 1:26, 27; 2:4).

4) His age is not known. Some Jewish men married about 18, but there is no way of knowing his age. Some contend Joseph was much older than Mary, but this is mere speculation. His age is unimportant.

b. Joseph comes from the Greek "Ioseph" [ee oh sayf] and the Hebrew "yoseph."

1) He was a man from Nazareth. (Lk. 2:4).

2) He was a "just man." (Matt. 1:19). "dikaios" [dee ki ahs] is rendered "righteous" by the NASB and many other translations. It seems in context to have the idea of merciful, but most likely is descriptive of his godly faith and character.

3) He was of Davidic descent. (Matt. 1:20; Lk. 2:4).

4) He was a carpenter by trade. (Matt. 13:55).

5) He was the “son” of Jacob whose lineage is traced through David back to Abraham. (Matt. 1:1-18, 16).

MAT 1:16 and to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

6) He was the husband (betrothed) of Mary. (Matt. 1:18).

7) He was the supposed [foster] father of Jesus. (Matt. 13:55; Lk. 3:23; 4:22; Jn. 1:46; 6:42). There is no way of knowing if the multitude had been informed of the virgin of Christ. Jesus and His apostles were silent about the matter during the ministry of Christ. They may have taught it to the multitudes, but the New Testament is silent about this. The gospels were written many years after the ministry of Christ, but what they reveal is truth.

8) Joseph was a religious man. (Lk. 2:22-24, 41).

9) An angel appeared to him in four different dreams. (Matt. 1:18-25; 2:13-15, 19-21, 22-23). It is possible the angel did not appear to Joseph in the fourth dream since it is not specifically mentioned.

10) There is not any criticism or implied criticism of this fine man.

11) It is sad we know nothing about Joseph’s life after Jesus reached the age of 12. (Lk. 2:41-52).

3. Mary and Joseph were betrothed. (Matt. 1: 18; Lk. 2:5).

MAT 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

LUK 2:5 in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. Lit. “betrothed”

- a. Betrothal was taken seriously among the Jews. It occurred 10 to 12 months before they came together in what we would call marriage.
- b. Those betrothed were considered married. (Matt. 1:19, 20).
- c. Yet marriage took place only when the bridegroom took the bride to his home and the marriage was consummated.
- d. The unfaithful betrothed woman could be stoned if her seduction took place in the city. (Deut. 22:23,24; cf 20:10).
- e. If a woman's husband died, the woman was then counted as a widow.

4. Joseph assumed she had been unfaithful.

- a. He thought she was guilty of fornication.
- b. Without the revelation of God there was no other conclusion he could reach.
- c. She should be put away (divorced).

5. He was considering giving her a bill of divorcement. (Matt. 1: 19).

- a. Divorce by mutual consent was a simple matter.
- b. The man needed merely to put the bill of divorcement into the presence of two witnesses. (Deut. 24:1-4; Mk. 10:4).
- c. No court action was required.

6. The angel affirmed to him in a dream that Mary had not been immoral. (Matt. 1:18-21).

7. The birth of Jesus was a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. (Isa. 7: 14).

ISA 7:14 "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. The Hebrew word translated "virgin" is "almah."

8. Jesus was "Immanuel" meaning "God with us."

- a. Jesus became man. He was incarnated. (Jn. 1:14; 1 Tim. 3: 16; 1 Jn. 4:2).
- b. Jesus was both God and man.
- c. He was Deity in the flesh. (Jn. 1:1-3; 20:28; Phil. 2:5-11; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:8).
  - 1) He was human and had the experiences of human. He could experience hunger, thirst, fatigue, temptation, pain, sorrow, death, etc.
  - 2) At the same time He was Deity and had all the attributes of Deity. (Col. 2:9; Jn. 14:9; 10:30).

9. Joseph and Mary came together after the birth of Jesus. (Matt. 1:25).

MAT 1:25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.  
1:25 and knew her not till she had brought forth a son: and he called his name JESUS. ASV

- a. "To know" is a frequent Old Testament euphemism for sexual intercourse. It comes from the Greek "ginosko" [gee **noh** skoh] meaning "to know."
- b. Mary and Joseph lived together sexually and had other children after the virgin birth of Jesus. (Lk. 2:7; Matt. 12:46; 13:55; Mk. 6:3; Acts 1:14).

10. Luke records the virgin birth of Jesus. (Lk. 1:26-35).

LUK 1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth,  
LUK 1:27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.  
LUK 1:28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."  
LUK 1:29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be.  
LUK 1:30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.  
LUK 1:31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.  
LUK 1:32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;  
LUK 1:33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end. "

LUK 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

LUK 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

- a. Mary was highly favored in the sight of God. (Lk. 1:28,30).
- b. She would become the mother of a child. (Lk. 1:31).
- c. The child would be named "Jesus" (Lk. 1:31).
  - 1) It means "Jehovah is salvation."
  - 2) It is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua.
  - 3) He was named and circumcised on the eighth day. (Lk. 2:21).

LUK 2:21 And when eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

- d. The child would "be great." (Lk. 1:32) See Isa. 9:6-7.

LUK 1:32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

ISA 9:6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

ISA 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

- e. The child would be called "Son of the Most High." (Lk. 1:32).
- f. Her son would occupy the throne of his father David. (Lk. 1:32).
- g. He would reign over the house of Jacob forever. (Lk. 1:33).
- h. His kingdom would have no end. (Lk. 1:33).
- i. He would not have a human father, but would be miraculously begotten by the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 1:35).

LUK 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

- j. Mary did not understand how, as a virgin, she could give birth to a child. (Lk. 1:34).

LUK 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

- k. Gabriel's reply. (Lk. 1:35). See Luke 1:19, 26.

LUK 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

## Some Additional Details

1. Mary yielded herself completely to God's will. (Lk. 1:38).

LUK 1:38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

2. Elizabeth and her unborn child expressed great joy because of the child Mary was carrying in her womb. (Lk. 1:39-45).

LUK 1:39 Now at this time Mary arose and went with haste to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

LUK 1:40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

LUK 1:41 And it came about that when Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

LUK 1:42 And she cried out with a loud voice, and said, "Blessed among women are you, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

LUK 1:43 "And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

LUK 1:44 "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

LUK 1:45 "And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

- a. The words "filled with the Holy Spirit" indicate her words were not her own.
- b. She was guided by the Holy Spirit in what she uttered about Mary and her Child.

3. Mary expressed her outburst of sacred and unselfish joy. (Lk. 1:46-55).

LUK 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord,

LUK 1:47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

LUK 1:48 "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

LUK 1:49 "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

LUK 1:50 "And His mercy is upon generation after generation Toward those who fear Him.

LUK 1:51 "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.

LUK 1:52 "He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

LUK 1:53 "He has filled the hungry with good things; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

LUK 1:54 "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

LUK 1:55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his offspring forever. "

4. Zachariah also was excited about the birth of John and he too "was filled with the Holy Spirit" (Lk. 1:67-79).

LUK 1:67 And his father Zacharias was **filled with the Holy Spirit**, and prophesied, saying:

LUK 1:68 "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,

LUK 1:69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant--

LUK 1:70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old--

LUK 1:71 Salvation from our enemies, And from the hand of all who hate us;

LUK 1:72 To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant,

LUK 1:73 The oath which He swore to Abraham our father,

LUK 1:74 To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

LUK 1:75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.

**LUK 1:76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on before the Lord to**

**prepare His ways;**

**LUK 1:77 To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins,**

LUK 1:78 Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us,

LUK 1:79 To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace. "

5. As the virgin born-son of Mary, her Son, Jesus had no legal right to the throne.

6. This had to come through Joseph whose genealogy was traced back to Abraham. (Matt. 1:1-17).

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,

© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." ([www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org))