

TEXT SERMON

Title: **"THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST"**
Scripture: **LUKE 1:26-38**

"Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her."

The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ is the scriptural teaching that He was miraculously begotten by God and born of Mary, who was a virgin. It means that Mary had not had sexual relations with any man when she conceived Jesus. This miraculous and marvelous act of God is described beautifully in Luke 1:26-38. The angel appeared to a virgin who was engaged to Joseph. In those days engagement was a legal arrangement in which a woman was betrothed, or pledged, to a man. But engagement did not permit sexual relations.

Since Mary had not "known" Joseph sexually, she wondered how she could bear a child. The angel explained that this would be accomplished by *"the power of the Highest."* There was nothing physical about this divine act; this is emphasized by the statement that the child would be the *"Holy One."* (Luke 1:35) Only God could perform the miracle of the incarnation.

The scriptural teaching of the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ is included in the two most widely used Christian creeds, which state that Jesus "was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the *Virgin* Mary," the Nicene Creed, and was "born of the *Virgin* Mary," Apostles' Creed.

There are four ways that God has created a body: the way He created Adam's body; the way He brought Eve's body into existence; the way the average human body comes into being; and, the fourth way, the way Christ's body – born of the Virgin Mary without the agency of a human father – was prepared.

Please understand that the Son of God could never be born as we were born for several reasons, one of which is because every baby is a new creation, never having existed before conception. But Jesus Christ existed from eternity! He was not only born within the world but

He came from without the world. *“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”* (John 3:17)

According to Isaiah 9:6 *“unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.”* Note the words, *“a child is born”* - this resulted in His human nature; *“a Son is given”* resulting in His divine nature. Thus, Jesus has two natures - divine and human. The eternal, divine nature of the Son of God was joined, in Mary's womb, with a human nature by the direct act of God. We, along with the virgin Mary ask, *“How can this be?”* We will never fully understand it this side of eternity. The Virgin Birth of our Savior involved a momentous miracle!

Many do not believe that Jesus was virgin born. The Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus is considered unimportant by theological liberals and some deny that it ever took place. How important is the Virgin Birth to you? What are the results if you do not hold to this vital truth? Let us examine this subject from the negative viewpoint. Those who reject this truth:

I. DENY THE CREDIBILITY OF SCRIPTURE.

We begin with several scriptures such as:

Gen. 3:15 - *“So the LORD God said to the serpent:I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed.”*

Isa.,7:14 - *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

Luke 1:31,35,37 - *“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. For with God nothing will be impossible.”*

At least eighteen times in the scripture record, an angel appeared and spoke to various humans about the birth of the Lord Jesus: to Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Zacharias, etc. If we deny the truth of the Virgin Birth we are dismissing the witness of the holy angels of God and substituting mere human intelligence for the intelligence of a higher rank of holy messengers of God.

These scriptures, and many other prophetic announcements, must be totally ignored by those who discount the record of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. To deny any portion of God's Holy Word is to sit in judgment upon all of it. If we reject the credibility of any scripture, we call into question the reliability of all scripture. Furthermore, to refuse to believe the record of the Virgin Birth of Jesus is to:

II. DEFAME THE CHASTITY OF MARY.

Do you believe that Isaiah, the angel of the Lord and Matthew were liars? All three testified that a virgin would give birth. Their testimonies are as follows:

The Prophet Isaiah said: *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a*

virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isa 7:14)

The angel said: *“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel which means, ‘God with us.’” (Matt 1:23)* Mary said: *“How will this be,”* Mary asked the angel, *“since I am a virgin?” (Luke 1:34)*

Matt. 1:18-20 - *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”*

Think about this: since Joseph was not Jesus’ biological father and if you discount that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit, that means some man had to be His father. That means that Mary was guilty of fornication. Therefore, she could not have been *“highly favored by God”* and *“blessed among women”* as Luke 1 states.

Mary was pure, holy, chaste, upright and righteous, therefore, *“highly favored by God”* and uniquely and singularly *“blessed among women.”*

To deny the Virgin Birth of our Lord, is to also:

III. DEGRADE THE CHARACTER OF JESUS.

Consider the blots that would stain Christ’s character if He were not Virgin Born:

- *He would have been an illegitimate child.* This is what Jesus’ enemies, the Pharisees, accused Him of: *“We were not born of fornication; we have one Father-God.” Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.” (John 8:41-44)*
- *He would have been the Son of an unknown father.* Since Joseph was not the human father, who was the father? Think about the implications: What is the son of an unknown Father called? A bastard! Deut. 23:2 says, *“A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of Israel.”* That meant not numbered among the congregation and denied any office or service. He could not be admitted into the assembly or bear any public office.

The implications of not being virgin born are great and grave. Jesus would have been disqualified to be the Redeemer and the Savior of the world.

IV. DISCARD THE CREDENTIALS OF CHRISTIANITY.

What does Christianity offer the world of lost human-kind that religions cannot give? Among the major credentials of Christianity are:

A Sinless Savior.

Scripture teaches that Jesus was fully human, with a physical body like ours. This He received from Mary. At the same time, Jesus was fully God, with an eternal, sinless nature. (John 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:14-17) If He was not virgin born then He was the son of a human father and was not conceived of the Holy Spirit and was not therefore, sinless.

An Atoning Death.

If He was not sinless He was not qualified to be the spotless Lamb of God (I Peter 1:19) and His death could not atone for our sins;

A Living Savior.

If his death did not atone for sin then Christ did not rise from the dead but His bones still lay in the Garden Tomb, therefore our preaching is vain, our faith is vain and we are still in our sins.

A Future Hope.

If Christ did not rise from the dead then He is not coming again for us and we are helpless and hopeless with a future as dark as a starless night.

A Salvation From Sin.

Matt. 1:21 *“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* If Christ Jesus was not virgin born all claims regarding His redemptive work and saving power are negated.

Summation

If the Lord Jesus was not virgin born, He had a sin nature; if a sin nature, He did not live a sinless life; no sinless life, no atoning death; no atoning death, no bodily resurrection; no bodily resurrection, no coming again. If all these foundation stones of faith are destroyed, there is no salvation!

The Virgin Birth is a great and mighty wonder. This truth is an essential part of the foundation of Christianity. It prompts a profound sense of awe because it is the plan conceived in the heart of God and carried out by the Holy Spirit of God in the womb of the virgin Mary, resulting in the birth of Immanuel, God with us!

CONCLUSION

Let us believers be clear about this matter: When we celebrate a Christian Christmas we are celebrating the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. But why did He come? *“He came to seek and to save the lost.”* (Luke 19:10) Let us make Him known to others.

When we sing the hymn, **“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”** let us pay particular attention to these words:

"Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord!

*Late in time behold Him come, **Offspring of the virgin's womb.***

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,

Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel,

Hark, the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King."

- Charles Wesley

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