

JESUS' VIRGIN BIRTH

- 1. Immediately after the fall, God hinted that the Messiah would be virgin born.**
 - a. Messiah is to be “the seed of the woman.” But men, not women, have seed.
 - (1) **Ge 3:15** 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
 - b. It is through conception and childbirth that Messiah will come.
 - (1) **Ge 3:16** 16 To the woman he said, I will surely multiply your distress in conception. In sorrow you shall bring forth children. Yet your desire shall be for your man, and he shall rule over you.
 - c. Strangely, a connection between Adam and Messiah is not mentioned (Ge 3:17-19).
 - d. Adam names his wife Eve because she is “the mother of all the living” (Ge 3:20), further hinting Messiah will come through her.
 - e. Ge 4:1 may hint Eve believed Cain was both man and Yahweh.
 - (1) **Ge 4:1** 1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, I have gotten a man—Yahweh (אֵלֹהִים יְהוָה).
- 2. The virgin birth was predicted by Isaiah around 700 bc.**
 - a. **Is 7:14** 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (עִמָּנוּאֵל).
 - b. **Is 9:6** 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God (אֵלֹהִים גִּבּוֹר), Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 3. Jesus’ “virgin birth” is more correctly called his “virgin conception.”**
- 4. Jesus carries one set of chromosomes from his Jewish mother.**
 - a. Jesus was Jewish, and he still is!
 - b. See Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Jesus Was a Jew*.
- 5. Both Matthew and Luke emphasise Joseph was not Jesus’ biological father.**
 - a. **Mt 1:16** 16 ...And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Messiah.
 - b. **Mt 1:18-25** 18 Now the birth of Jesus Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son (υἱός), and you shall call his name Jesus (יֵשׁוּעַ), for he will save his people from their sins. 22 All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him. He took his wife 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- c. **Lk 1:26-35** 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin (παρθένος) betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ...30 And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive (συλλαμβάνω, fut.) in your womb (γαστήρ) and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. 34 And Mary said to the angel, How will this be, since I am a virgin? 35 And the angel answered her, The Holy Spirit will come upon (ἐπέρχομαι, fut.) you, and the power (δύναμις) of the Most High (ὑψίστος) will overshadow (ἐπισκιάζω, fut.)¹ you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy (ἅγιος)—the Son of God.

6. The virgin conception saved Jesus from the curse of Jeconiah.

- a. **Je 22:30** 30 Thus says Yahweh: Write this man [Coniah] down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah.
- b. **1 Ch 3:17-18** 17 ...And the sons of Jeconiah, the captive: Shealtiel his son, 18 Malchiram, Pedaiah, Shenazzar, Jekamiah, Hoshama and Nedabiah....
- c. **Hag 2:23** 23 On that day, declares Yahweh of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares Yahweh, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares Yahweh of hosts.

7. Through the virgin birth, Jesus became the second federal head of the human race.

8. The virgin birth was necessary so that Jesus could be fully human yet without sin.

- a. **He 7:26** 26 It was...fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
- b. **1 Pe 1:18-19** 18 You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Messiah, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
- c. “[Jesus’] supernatural birth qualified Him for the sinless life He lived, the Word Incarnate, never less than God in what He was, but never more than Man in what He did!”²
- d. “When Jesus Christ came to earth to become the God-man, He was born outside the slave market: His humanity was perfect. Because of His unique birth, He alone had no sinful nature. He never committed a sin Himself, and no divine punishment was due Him.”³

¹ “[T]o cause a darkened effect by interposing someth. between a source of light and an object, *overshadow, cast a shadow*...to cause a darkening, *cover*..., mostly used in our lit. for ref. to divine activity such as a cloud that indicates the presence of God” (BDAG, 378).

² W. Ian Thomas, *The Mystery of Godliness*, 134.

³ R. B. Thieme, Jr., “A Matter of Life and Death,” 6-7.

9. Discussion Questions.

- a. Why was it necessary for the mother of Messiah to be a virgin?
- b. Why was it necessary for Mary to be from the line of David?

Bibliography

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