

The Importance of the Virgin Birth

I. A Scriptural Foundation for the Virgin Birth of Christ

- Old Testament Prophecies
 - Genesis 3:15 – “seed of woman”
 - Isaiah 7:14 – “a virgin shall conceive”
 1. “It is pointed out in objection that the term rendered ‘virgin’ in Isaiah does not necessarily bear this meaning; it denotes properly only a young unmarried woman. The context, however, seems clearly to lay an emphasis on the unmarried state, and the translators of the Greek versions of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) plainly so understood it when they rendered it by *parthenos*, a word which does mean ‘virgin.’” – J. Edwin Orr, “The Virgin Birth of Christ” in *The Fundamentals*
 - Micah 5:3 – focus on mother and no mention of father
- New Testament Accounts
 - Luke 1:34-35 – announced by the angel Gabriel
 - Matthew 1:18 – clear statement of the fact
 - Matthew 1:20-23 – angel tells Joseph and points to fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14
- New Testament Teachings
 - Galatians 4:4 – “made of a woman”

II. The Virgin Birth and the Incarnation of Christ

- Today, society argues about when a child becomes a person (conception, birth, etc.), but Christ did not begin as a baby – He already existed!
- John states that Christ was with God, was God, and existed before the world was created – John 1:1, 17:5
- John also writes that Christ “became flesh” – John 1:14
- Paul wrote that Christ existed and *then* was born of a woman – Galatians 4:4
- So, Christ, the everlasting God, came to us through the Virgin Birth clothed in human flesh.

III. The Virgin Birth and the Humiliation of Christ

- The Bible teaches that Christ laid aside His glory and humbled Himself to take on human form – Philippians 2:6-7
- In Hebrews we see this doctrine illustrated as He became “a little lower” than angels – Hebrews 2:5-9
- Christ was both God and Man and exhibited attributes of both.
 - As a man, He hungered, grew tired, ate, etc.
 - As God, He knew the thoughts of men, worked miracles, etc.

IV. The Virgin Birth and the Sacrifice of Christ

- The most vital aspect of the Virgin Birth is that it enabled Christ to be the acceptable sacrifice to God for our sins

- Because of Adam's sin all his descendants have been born sinners and that guilty state brings the judgment of God upon all men. – Romans 5:12
- Christ, born of a virgin, was not subject to Adam's curse. He was born sinless and holy, not in any sense diminishing those divine attributes. – I Peter 1:18-19
 - Christ had flesh, but not the fallen nature and "sinful flesh" we have – "likeness of sinful flesh" – Isaiah 53:9, Romans 8:3, Hebrew 7:26, I Peter 2:22-24, I John 3:5
- That holiness and perfect nature of Christ allowed Him to bear the burden of our sins – II Corinthians 5:21
- Thus, without the Virgin Birth Christ would not be sinless and would not be able to die in our place upon Calvary. If Christ could not be the propitiation for our sins, then we have no escape from sin's penalty. In short, without the Virgin Birth we have not hope of salvation.