

Why the Virgin Birth Matters



“...the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).” Isaiah 7:14 NLT

- Do you find it hard to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ?
- Is it important to believe in the virgin birth?

One theologian wrote concerning the virgin birth, “Next to the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, perhaps the one event of his life that has received the greatest amount of attention is the virgin birth. Certainly, next to the resurrection, it is the most debated and controversial.” (Millard Erickson, *Systematic Theology*, 675).

For many Christians, belief in the virgin birth is a test for determining if someone is conservative or liberal. It is usually thought that a belief in the virgin birth indicated a belief in the miraculous, the trustworthiness of the Bible, and its divine origin. If we reject the virgin birth when the Bible claimed that it occurred, what is to prevent someone from rejecting other parts of the Bible?

What does the virgin birth mean? Again, Theologian, Millard Erickson, explained, “What we are speaking of here is really the ‘virgin conception.’ By this we mean that Jesus’s conception in the womb of Mary was not the result of sexual relationship. Mary was a virgin at the time of Jesus’s conception and continued so up to the point of his birth, for Scripture indicates that Joseph did not have sexual intercourse with her until after the birth of Jesus (Matt. 1:25).” (p. 676)

Central Lesson:

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ qualified him to be the Savior of the world. It enabled him to be God in human form and to be free from humanities sinful nature.

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1. The Virgin Birth Fulfilled Prophecy & **PROVED** that Jesus Is the Promised Messiah - Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:26-35

Matthew 1:22-23 NLT *“22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: 23 ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”*

Luke 1:26-35 NLT *“26 God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary... 30 ‘Don’t be afraid, Mary,’ the angel told her, ‘for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus... 35 The angel replied, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.’”*

2. The Virgin Birth Proves the **DEITY** of Christ & Distinguishes Him from All Other Religious Leaders - Luke 1:32-33.

“32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

3. The Virgin Birth Qualified Jesus to Be the **SAVIOR** of Sinners - Luke 1:35.

“The angel replied, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.’”

The virgin birth accomplished the three conditions necessary for Jesus to be the Savior of Sinners.

1. He must be a **MAN**.
2. He must be **GOD**.
3. He must be **HOLY** without sin.

- Because he is born of Mary, he is truly human.
- Because of the Virgin Birth, Christ enters the world **guiltless** of the sin of Adam.
- Because he is conceived of the Holy Spirit, he is **free** from the **inherited guilt** handed down from Adam. He is fully able to **stand in our place, take our guilt, our shame, our punishment**. He can pay for our sins because he **had no sin** and **no guilt** of his own.

How is it possible for Jesus to be human and not have a sinful nature? Isn’t it true that to err is human? (Alexander Pope ,1711)

Bible teacher, Millard Erickson, gave an excellent answer to these questions. He wrote, “... sin is not part of the essence of human nature, instead of asking, ‘Is Jesus as human as we are?’ We might better ask, ‘Are we as human as Jesus?’ For the type of human nature that each of us possesses is not pure human nature. The true humanity created by God has in our case been corrupted and spoiled. There have been only three pure human beings: Adam and Eve (before the fall), and Jesus. All the rest of us are broken, corrupted versions of humanity. Jesus is not only as human as we are; he is more human. Our humanity is not a standard by which we are to measure his. His humanity, true and unadulterated, is the standard by which we are to be measured.” (*Systematic Theology*, 657-658).

What Is the Significance of Virgin Birth?

1. The virgin birth is evidence of the uniqueness of Jesus the Savior.
2. The virgin birth is evidence of God’s power and sovereignty over nature.
3. The doctrine of the virgin birth is a reminder that our salvation is supernatural.
4. The virgin birth is also reminder that God’s salvation is fully a gift of grace.

Central Lesson:

The virgin birth of Jesus Christ qualified him to be the Savior of the world. It enabled him to be God in human form and to be free from humanities sinful nature.

- ▶ Accept Christ as your Savior. ▶ As a Christian, dedicate your life to Christ. ▶ Invite someone to next Sunday’s study. ▶ Attend a small group. ▶ Read the Bible this week & journal meaningful verses. ▶ Pray for friends that need Jesus.