

Theme: The miracle of the virgin birth is an essential element of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for from it flow all the essential doctrines that lead to Christ's perfect sacrifice for sins and the new life for us that is found in Him. We rejoice in God's miraculous power.

Background: How many times have you affirmed "born of the Virgin Mary"?

Introduction: That statement is a Line of Demarcation separating those who trust in the "natural" only, from those who trust in the "Supranatural."

I. The Unexpected Announcement

- A. A young virgin
 - Betrothed to Joseph (of the Davidic line)
- B. An alarming encounter
 - 1. The angelic greeting
 - a. Gabriel
 - We've met him before (Daniel 8:16, 9:21; Luke 1:19)
 - b. Favored one
 - "The Lord is with you" (spoken to Gideon Judges 6:12)
 - NOTE: God uses young people for His Kingdom and glory.
 - 2. Mary's anxiety
 - Troubled! (Who wouldn't be?!)
 - Does God work like this?
 - 3. Angelic assurance
 - "Fear Not"
 - You have favor with God
- C. An impossible promise (verses 31&32)
 - 1. You will conceive, will become pregnant
 - 2. Give birth to a son
 - 3. Must be given the name "Jesus"
 - 4. Child will be "great"
 - 5. His title will be "Son of the Most High" (Genesis 14:18-20, 22; Psalm 57:2; Daniel 5:18)
 - 6. Inheriting "the throne of his father David"
 - 7. "Kingdom will have no end" (2 Samuel 7:16; Daniel 7:13-14)
- D. But how?
 - 1. "I am a virgin" (verse 34)
 - Does not know a man
 - 2. In doubt or in faith
 - Mary - not a question of if, but "how" (desire to be instructed)
 - Zechariah - Not a question of how, but "if" (wanted to be convinced)

II. The "Impossible" Explanation

- A. God's extraordinary means
 - 1. Through the Holy Spirit (verse 35)
 - "come upon you" Delicate expression
 - Shrouded in mystery
 - 2. Through the miraculous
 - a. God is Sovereign - free to act for His glory
 - b. Defined: "that which God does directly without resorting to the ordinary means (natural processes/secondary causes) or in His directing the course of the ordinary means to His extraordinary ends (overruling "natural" results).

3. Nothing is impossible with God
 - Evidence you must consider? Elizabeth
 - Genesis 18:14; Numbers 11:23; Zechariah 8:6; Luke 18:27
- B. God's extraordinary purpose
 1. A divine Son
 - a. A Holy Child
 - b. The Son of God
 2. The purpose of miracles
 - a. Not for exhibition
 - b. Redemptive in purpose and scope (Mark 6:5)
NOTE: Many people live without the real hope and joy of Christmas because they can't accept the miraculous, supernatural intervention of God in the world.
- C. Mary's extraordinary submission
 1. I am yours Lord, to work in and through as you will
 - Her submission is more than a resignation to the Father's will
 2. Let it be to me according to your word!
 - Make it happen!
 3. Accepting/Embracing the "Impossible"
- III. Does It Really Matter?
 - A. The truth of God's word stands or falls right here
 - B. The truth of the person of Christ stands or falls here
 - C. Where you stand in His Kingdom starts here

Will you cross the line into belief and trust, to rest in the extraordinary, saving power of God?

Will you show others the line that was drawn in Nazareth causes such wonder even today?