

TITLE: THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND THE VIRGIN BIRTH

TEXT: LUKE 1:26-38

INTRODUCTION: (1) R. C. SPROUL WRITES THE **FORWARD TO A BOOK TITLED: "PEACE" WHICH** IS A BOOK I HAVE OF CLASSIC READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS BY STEPHEN J. NICHOLS.

* THE FORWARD THAT R. C. SPROUL WRITES RESONATES WITH ME, FOR I LOVE CHRISTMAS AND THE SEASON.

** HOWEVER, I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL THAT I **DON'T WORSHIP THE SEASON BUT THE SON,** THAT I AM FOCUSED ON THE SAVIOR WHILE ENJOYING THE SEASON.

*** SPROUL SAID AND I **QUOTE: "NO HOLIDAY** STIRS THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS AS DOES CHRISTMAS.

**** INDEED CHRISTMAS IS NOT CELEBRATED FOR A SINGLE DAY BUT USUALLY INVOLVES A **MONTH'S SEASON OF CELEBRATION AND CONTEMPLATION.**

(2) WE'VE ALL HEARD OF THE LAMENTATIONS ABOUT THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF CHRISTMAS AND THE SECULARIZATION OF CHRISTMAS AND EVEN THOSE PROTESTS FROM WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY THAT CHRISTMAS IS A PAGAN HOLIDAY THAT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE ACKNOWLEDGED.

* NEVERTHELESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS TIME OF CELEBRATION REFUSES TO GO AWAY. NO NUMBER OF GRINCHES ARE SUFFICIENT TO STEAL IT FROM OUR CULTURE AND FROM THE CHURCH.

**** THAT'S BECAUSE IT IS THE DAY AMONG ALL** DAYS WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE ENTRANCE INTO THIS WORLD OF OUR REDEEMER.

*** IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT THE DELIVERY OF A BABY, BUT IS RATHER THE CELEBRATION OF THE INCARNATION OF GOD (THOUGH THAT INCARNATION CAME BY MEANS OF THE BEARING OF A BABY.)

****** THAT BABY'S BIRTH IS OF SINGULAR** IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE WHOLE OF HUMAN HISTORY, NOT ONLY FOR RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS, BUT IT IS OF COSMIC SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE THE WHOLE EXPLANATION OF THE MEANING OF CREATION IS FOUND IN HIS PERSON AND IN HIS WORK.

(3) INDEED AS THE SCRIPTURES TEACH US THIS BABY WHO WAS BORN WAS IN HIS PRE-INCARNATE STATE, THE CREATOR OF THE WORLD. HE IS THE ONE IN WHOM, THROUGH WHOM AND BY WHOM ALL THINGS ARE MADE.

* IF WE TRAVEL THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE WEST, WE SEE THE MULTIPLE TRADITIONS THAT HAVE ARISEN BY WHICH CHRISTIAN PEOPLE CELEBRATE THIS MOMENT IN TIME. EACH OF THESE TRADITIONS GIVES US SOMETHING TO SAVOR AND CONTEMPLATE ABOUT THE SWEETNESS OF OUR **SAVIOR'S INCARNATION.**

** THIS BOOK, PEACE (THE BOOK THAT SPROUL WRITES THE FORWARD TO) BRINGS REFRESHING AND PROFITABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE MEANING, PURPOSE AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRISTMAS. IT IS A VALUABLE BOOK FOR ALL OF US TO HAVE AND READ AS WE CONTEMPLATE THIS GLORIOUS MOMENT OF **HUMAN HISTORY." (END QUOTE)**

*** NOW THE BIRTH OF CHRIST, THE COMING OF CHRIST, THE ADVENT OF CHRIST WAS ABSOLUTELY AND POSITIVELY GLORIOUS AND GREAT.

**** FOR AT THAT EVENT, AND IN ESSENCE WE ARE CELEBRATING AN EVENT, A TRUTH, A FACT, NOT NECESSARILY A DAY.

(4) FOR THE REALITY OF THE FACT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IS A PROFOUND TRUTH.

* I LIKE TO THINK OF IT IN THESE TERMS, AS HANDLES TO HOLD ON TO.

** ON THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS, THE INFINITE ONE BECAME AN INFANT. AND IS THAT PROFOUND OR WHAT? WHO COULD COME UP WITH AN IDEA LIKE THAT, BUT ONLY A GOD WHO SAVES SINNERS.

*** BUT ALSO PONDER THE FATHOMLESS TRUTH THAT THE CREATOR BECAME A PART OF HIS CREATION, AND LET THAT HIT YOU.

**** THAT THE SOVEREIGN BECAME A SERVANT THAT DEITY TOOK ON HUMANITY, THAT GOD BECAME MAN.

(5) AND THESE GREAT TRUTHS ARE EXPRESSED IN THE BIBLE IN WHAT IS CALLED THEOLOGICALLY THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND THE VIRGIN BIRTH.

* AND THESE THEOLOGICAL TRUTHS NEED NOT BE STUFFY OR BORING BUT PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD ARE A BLESSING AND JOY.

** AND MY HOPE TODAY IS THESE TRUTHS WILL BRING GLORY TO GOD AND GRATEFULNESS TO YOUR HEARTS.

*** **THAT YOU'LL SEE THE NECESSITY AND** IMPORTANCE OF THESE TRUTHS AND BEYOND GLORIFYING OUR SAVIOR GOD, THAT THEY WILL BRING A FRESH RESPONSE OF WORSHIP TODAY.

**** AND I HOPE THAT THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED.

(6) HOW COULD THE IMMUTABLE CHANGELESS GOD CHANGE AND BECOME MAN?

* AND HOW COULD ONE PERSON BE BOTH DIVINE AND HUMAN AT THE SAME TIME? AND WHY WOULD ONE PERSON BE BOTH DIVINE AND HUMAN AT THE SAME TIME? WHY WAS THIS NECESSARY?

**** THUS I'VE TITLED OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** TODAY, THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND THE VIRGIN BIRTH AS WE WILL TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY MEAN AND WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT.

*** AND 4 POINTS TODAY TO DIRECT OUR STUDY, **4 QUESTIONS I'LL ATTEMPT TO ANSWER. NO. 1** WHAT IS THE HYPOSTATIC UNION? AND NO. 2 WHY IS IT IMPORTANT? NO. 3 WHERE IS THE VIRGIN BIRTH COMMUNICATED IN SCRIPTURE AND NO. 4 WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**** AND WITH THOSE 4 QUESTIONS AS OUR **GUIDE FOR TODAY, WE'LL LOOK AT OUR FIRST** ONE, WHAT IS THE HYPOSTATIC UNION?

I. WHAT IS THE HYPOSTATIC UNION?

A. WELL, THE TERM HYPOSTATIC UNION IS NOT A TERM WE NEED TO FEAR AND IS MUCH EASIER THAN IT SOUNDS, HYPOSTATIC SOUNDS FANCY, **BUT IT'S A PRETTY SIMPLE TERM.**

* HOWEVER, THE CONCEPT AND TRUTH OF IT IS AS PROFOUND AS ANYTHING IN THEOLOGY.

** WITH THAT SAID, HYPOSTATIC MEANS PERSONAL. THE HYPOSTATIC UNION IS THE **PERSONAL UNION OF JESUS' TWO NATURES.**

*** JESUS HAS TWO COMPLETE NATURES, ONE FULLY HUMAN AND ONE FULLY DIVINE.

**** WHAT THE HYPOSTATIC UNION TEACHES THAT THESE TWO NATURES ARE UNITED IN ONE PERSON IN THE GOD-MAN JESUS CHRIST.

1. JESUS IS NOT TWO PERSONS. HE IS ONE PERSON. THE HYPOSTATIC UNION IS THE JOINING OF THE DIVINE AND THE HUMAN IN THE ONE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST.

* AND THAT TRUTH EMPHASIZES THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN AT THE SAME TIME. NOT 50% MAN AND 50% GOD, BUT 100% MAN AND 100% GOD.

** THUS THE TERM HYPOSTATIC UNION IS USED **TO AFFIRM THE UNION OF JESUS' DIVINE AND HUMAN NATURES** IN ONE PERSON, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS PERFECTLY GOD AND PERFECTLY MAN.

*** THEOLOGIANS LIKE TO SAY IT THIS WAY: JESUS CHRIST IS CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH GOD AS TO HIS DEITY AND WITH MANKIND AS TO HIS HUMANITY.

**** THUS THE TEACHING IS THAT IN THE ONE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT NATURES: THE DIVINE AND THE HUMAN.

2. JESUS WAS TRULY MAN, LIKE US, AND TRULY GOD, GOD HIMSELF WRAPPED UP IN ONE PERSON. COLOSSIANS 2:9, JOHN 1:14, I TIMOTHY 3:16 (QUOTE THEM)

*** THEN HEBREWS 1:3 SAYS: "AND HE IS THE RADIANCE OF HIS GLORY AND THE EXACT REPRESENTATION OF HIS NATURE, AND UPHOLDS ALL THINGS BY THE WORD OF HIS POWER. WHEN HE HAD MADE PURIFICATION OF SINS, HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE MAJESTY ON HIGH."**

** NOW THE WORD NATURE IN THIS TEXT MEANING IMAGE, IMPRINT IS, THE GREEK WORD HUPOSTASIS (WHO-POSE-STOH-SEES) WHICH IS THE WORD THAT HYPOSTATIC IS DERIVED FROM.

*** THUS JESUS WAS THE IMAGE, THE NATURE, THE IMPRINT OF GOD IN A HUMAN BODY.

**** COLOSSIANS 1:15 SAYS (QUOTE IT).

3. NOW THE TRUTH HERE IS JESUS CHRIST IS THE PERFECT IMAGE, THE EXACT LIKENESS OF GOD, FULLY GOD IN EVERY WAY, THE HIGHEST IN RANK AND NOT CREATED. JESUS CHRIST IS ETERNAL.

* BUT AT HIS ADVENT, HIS FIRST COMING, AT THE INCARNATION; GOD BECAME MAN.

** THUS IN SUMMARY, THE HYPOSTATIC UNION IS THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE THAT IN THE ONE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT NATURES, THE DIVINE AND THE HUMAN.

*** WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR **2'D POINT TODAY**, WHY IS IT IMPORTANT, WHY IS THIS TRUTH IMPORTANT?

II. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

A. NOW THE QUESTION CAN BE ASKED AT THIS POINT, WHY BOTHER WITH THIS SEEMINGLY FANCY TERM, HYPOSTATIC UNION.

* WHAT GOOD IS IT? HOW IS IT PRACTICAL AND IMPORTANT?

** WELL, AS JOHN PIPER STATES, THIS TRUTH IS **"INTIMATELY PRECIOUS AND WORSHIPFULLY MIND STRETCHING."**

*** WHICH MEANS IT IS PRECIOUS AND IMMEASURABLY SWEET AND ARE INSPIRING TO **KNOW THAT JESUS' TWO NATURES ARE** PERFECTLY UNITED IN HIS ONE PERSON.

**** JESUS IS NOT DIVIDED. HE IS NOT TWO PEOPLE. HE IS ONE PERSON. AS THE CHALCEDONIAN CREED STATES, WHICH THE PHRASE HYPOSTATIC UNION HAS ITS ORIGINS IN **AD 451, IT STATES: "HIS TWO NATURES ARE** WITHOUT CONFUSION, WITHOUT CHANGE, WITHOUT DIVISION AND WITHOUT SEPARATION. **JESUS IS ONE."**

1. AND PRACTICALLY THAT MEANS JESUS IS THE ONE FOCAL POINT FOR OUR WORSHIP. AS JONATHAN EDWARDS PREACHED, IN THIS ONE PERSON GOD-MAN WE FIND **"AN ADMIRABLE CONJUNCTION OF DIVERSE EXCELLENCIES."**

* MEANING - INTERPRETATION: BECAUSE OF THE HYPOSTATIC, ONE PERSON UNION, JESUS CHRIST EXHIBITS - SHOWS AN UNPARALLELED MAGNIFICENCE. OF ALL THE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE THAT WERE BORN, NO ONE WAS LIKE HIM.

** ALL BABIES ONLY HAVE ONE NATURE: HUMAN, FALLEN, SINFUL, NOT MAGNIFICENT, NEVER WORTHY OF WORSHIP, LIMITED, FINITE.

*** BUT THE GOD-MAN, JESUS IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP FOR THERE NEVER WAS ANYONE LIKE HIM, NOR WILL THERE BE ANYONE LIKE HIM, NO PERSON IS EQUAL OR UNIQUE, THERE IS NOBODY LIKE HIM WHO IS UNIQUE.

**** GOD NEEDED TO BECOME MAN TO SAVE MAN, TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS, MATTHEW 1:21.

2. AND THE CONCEPT OF A GOD WHO NEVER BECAME MAN (LIKE ALLAH) WILL NOT SATISFY OUR GREATEST NEED, TO SAVE OUR SOULS.

* AND GOD BECAME MAN TO DO FOR US WHAT WE COULD NEVER DO FOR OURSELVES, FORGIVE US. IT WOULD TAKE A PERFECT CLEAR HOLY PURE SAVIOR TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS.

** AND WHO COULD CONJURE UP A TRUTH LIKE THIS, WHOM COULD THINK LIKE THIS BUT AN INFINITE, LOVING, ALL-POWERFUL, ALL-WISE GOD. THIS IS A MAGNIFICENT TRUTH, OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL.

*** IT WOULD TAKE PERFECTION IN A BODY TO PURCHASE OUR SALVATION. IT WOULD TAKE INFINITE WISDOM TO COME UP WITH THIS PLAN OF REDEMPTION AND SALVATION.

**** ONE SINNER OR HUMAN, DYING FOR OTHER SINNERS COULD NEVER BRING SALVATION FROM SIN. IT WOULD TAKE A PERFECT SAVIOR, A GOD-MAN TO DO IT. LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMASTIME FOR GOD IS LOVE. BUT HE WOULD TAKE ON FRAIL FLESH, WRAP HIMSELF IN A BODY, WAS BORN TO DIE, TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

3. OUR RESPONSE: WORSHIP, PRAISE FOR SO GREAT A SALVATION. THE REASON JESUS BECAME THE GOD-MAN WAS FOR US.

* BELOVED, THE ONLY ADEQUATE SAVIOR HAD TO BE BOTH GOD AND MAN, AND THE ONLY WAY THAT THAT END COULD BE ACHIEVED WAS THROUGH A REAL INCARNATION, A REAL ADVENT, A REAL COMING OF GOD.

** THEOLOGIAN LORRAINE BOETTNER SAID AND
I QUOTE: "IN HIS FALLEN CONDITION MAN HAS
NEITHER THE INCLINATION NOR THE ABILITY TO
REDEEM HIMSELF. ALL MERELY HUMAN WORKS
ARE DEFECTIVE AND INCAPABLE OF REDEEMING
A SINGLE SOUL. BETWEEN THE HOLY GOD AND
SINFUL MAN THERE IS AN INFINITE GULF; AND
ONLY THROUGH ONE WHO IS DEITY (GOD) WHO
TAKES MAN'S NATURE UPON HIMSELF AND
SUFFERS AND DIES IN HIS STEAD, THUS GIVING
INFINITE VALUE AND DIGNITY TO THAT
SUFFERING AND DEATH, CAN MAN'S DEBT BE
PAID," (END QUOTE)

**** THUS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS 100% GOD
AND 100% MAN COULD SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM
THEIR SINS. QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 8:9 AND
II CORINTHIANS 5:21.

4. BELOVED PRAISE BE OUR GREAT SAVIOR, THE
GOD MAN WHOM WAS BORN TO DIE AND HIS
INCARNATION IS A TRUTH TO CELEBRATE, THE
BIRTH OF THE GOD MAN.

* NOW FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, JESUS HAD TO BE VIRGIN BORN TO BE THE GOD MAN, WHICH LEADS TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, WHERE IS THE VIRGIN BIRTH TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE?

III. WHERE IS THE VIRGIN BIRTH TAUGHT IN SCRIPTURE?

A. AND BEFORE I ANSWER THAT, PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND THE VIRGIN BIRTH ARE SEAMLESSLY CONNECTED.

* FOR JESUS TO BE FULLY HUMAN AND FULLY DIVINE, HE HAD TO BE BORN OF A WOMAN TO BE HUMAN, BUT HAVE NO HUMAN FATHER TO PASS ON THE SIN NATURE, SO HE WOULD BE PERFECT AND SINLESS.

** IF JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD IN JUST AN APPEARANCE, COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN, IN HIS PRE-INCARNATE STATE AS SPIRIT, ACCORDING TO JOHN 4:24, IF HE DID THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE A HUMAN NATURE.

* THUS HE WAS BORN OF A WOMAN, WITH A HUMAN NATURE, BUT IF HE WAS NOT VIRGIN CONCEIVED, THEN HE WAS NOT GOD.

**** THUS JESUS' VIRGIN BIRTH ACTUALLY** PRODUCED A UNION OF THE TWO NATURES, DIVINE AND HUMAN, IN THE PERSON OF CHRIST.

*** HENCE, WHEN GOD BECAME MAN, HE DID NOT CEASE BEING GOD. I MEAN HOW COULD GOD EVEN BE LESS THAN WHAT HE IS? YET AT THE INCARNATION THROUGH THE VIRGIN BIRTH, GOD ACQUIRED A HUMAN NATURE.

*** THEREFORE, BEFORE THE VIRGIN CONCEPTION, GOD THE SON ONLY HAD THE DIVINE NATURE; AFTER THAT EVENT, HE HAD BOTH THE DIVINE NATURE AND A HUMAN NATURE.

1. GOD THE SON GAINED A TRUE HUMANITY THROUGH THE VIRGIN CONCEPTION. BECAUSE OF THAT, WITHOUT THE VIRGIN BIRTH THERE WOULD BE NO HYPOSTATIC UNION; TO BE BOTH HUMAN AND DIVINE IN ONE PERSON, JESUS HAD TO BE BORN OF A VIRGIN. NO SIN NATURE WAS PASSED DOWN THROUGH A SON OF ADAM.

* SO THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS AN ESSENTIAL TEACHING OF CHRISTIANITY, A CARDINAL DOCTRINE.

** FOR IF JESUS IS NOT GOD, HIS CLAIMS ARE LIES AND IF HIS CLAIMS ARE LIES, HIS SALVATION IS A HOAX, AND IF HIS SALVATION IS A HOAX, WE ARE ALL DOOMED.

*** BUT JESUS WAS AND IS GOD, FOR HE WAS VIRGIN BORN AND THE O.T. AND NEW TESTAMENTS DECLARE THAT JESUS WAS VIRGIN BORN IMPLICITLY AND EXPLICITLY.

**** AND TO BEGIN WE GO TO GENESIS 3:15 WHICH SAYS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FALL, SPOKEN TO EVE, THESE WORDS: (QUOTE THEM).

2. NOW IN THIS TEXT, "HER SEED" IS AN EXPRESSION USED NOWHERE ELSE IN SCRIPTURE, FOR EVERY OTHER TIME THE WORD OF GOD SPEAKS OF SOMEONE'S OFFSPRING AS "SEED," IT IS SPEAKING OF THE MALE SEED OR SPERM.

* BUT THIS IS THE ONLY TIME THE BIBLE EVER SPEAKS OF THE SEED OF A WOMAN, AND **CERTAINLY THAT'S AN INDICATION OF SOMETHING SPECIAL.**

**** THE PHRASE "SEED OF THE WOMAN" TELLS US THAT GOD IS PROMISING THAT AT SOME POINT IN HISTORY THERE WILL BE A SEED OF A WOMAN, A VEILED REFERENCE TO THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST.**

*** FOR NORMALLY IT IS THROUGH THE SEED OF THE MAN THAT A CHILD IS CONCEIVED OR OFFSPRING ARE SPOKEN OF AS THE SEED OF THEIR FATHER, BIBLICALLY.

**** BUT JESUS CHRIST WOULD HAVE NO HUMAN FATHER. MARY WAS A VIRGIN, SHE NEVER KNEW A MAN IN THE PHYSICAL SENSE, HOWEVER WAS WITH CHILD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GAVE BIRTH TO JESUS.

3. MARY BYPASSED THE MAN'S SEED AND JESUS WAS OF THE SEED OF THE WOMAN BIOLOGICALLY, HER SON, HER FAMILY IN THAT SENSE. JOSEPH WAS NOT THE BLOOD FATHER OF JESUS, MARY WAS A VIRGIN.

*** NOW A 2'D PLACE IN THE O.T. THAT TALKS** ABOUT THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS ISAIAH 7:14 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT)

** NOW THOSE WHO DENY THE VIRGIN BIRTH POINT OUT THAT IN ISAIAH 7:14 THE HEBREW WORD TRANSLATED VIRGIN ALMAH (AL-MAH) CAN MEAN YOUNG GIRL.

*** BUT A YOUNG GIRL HAVING A BABY WAS NO SIGN AS ISAIAH 7:14 SAYS IT WOULD BE, LOTS OF YOUNG WOMEN HAVE BABIES.

**** YET FOR IT TO BE A SIGN, IT MUST BE SPECIFIC AND UNIQUE, SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY, SOMETHING UNUSUAL.

4. HOWEVER, A VIRGIN BEARING A SON WOULD INDEED BE A SIGN.

* BEYOND THAT MATTHEW 1:23 IS THE FULFILLMENT AND GIVES US THE DIVINE INTERPRETATION OF ISAIAH 7:14 (QUOTE IT AND MATTHEW 1:23).

** NOW THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED VIRGIN **IN MATTHEW 1:23 CAN'T MEAN ANYTHING BUT** VIRGIN, A WOMAN WHOM HAS NEVER KNOWN A MAN.

*** IN FACT, MATTHEW 1:18 SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

**** AND THEN IN MATTHEW 1:20 IT SAYS, AND I AM GIVING YOU ONE OF TWO MAJOR TEXTS OF **THE N.T., WHICH I'LL COVER THE OTHER IN A FEW MINUTES**, MATTHEW 1:20 SAYS: **"BUT** WHEN HE HAD CONSIDERED THIS, BEHOLD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A **DREAM, SAYING, "JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID, DO NOT BE AFRAID TO TAKE MARY AS YOUR WIFE; FOR THE CHILD WHO HAS BEEN CONCEIVED IN HER IS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."**

5. AND LASTLY IN MATTHEW 1:24&25 IT SAYS:

V. 24 – AND JOSEPH AWOKE FROM HIS SLEEP AND DID AS THE ANGEL OF THE LORD COMMANDED HIM, AND TOOK MARY AS HIS WIFE,

V. 25 – BUT KEPT HER A VIRGIN UNTIL SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A SON; AND HE CALLED HIS NAME JESUS.

* SO MATTHEW 1:18-25 CLEARLY COMMUNICATES VIRGIN BIRTH AND MATTHEW 1:23 FULFILLS ISAIAH 7:14.

** NOW THOSE ARE THE TWO PRIMARY TEXTS IN THE O.T. THAT COMMUNICATE THE VIRGIN BIRTH AND WE HAVE TWO PRIMARY TEXTS IN THE N.T.

*** AND I HAVE GIVEN YOU THE FIRST ONE, MATTHEW 1:18-**25. NOW THE 2'D ONE WAS OUR** TEXT I READ THIS MORNING TO BEGIN WITH.

**** FOR LUKE 1:21-35 IN MY TRANSLATION USES THE WORD VIRGIN 3 TIMES IN THE TEXT AND V. 35 IS AN EXPLANATION BY GABRIEL OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH, HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT **CONCEIVED JESUS IN MARY'S WOMB.**

6. THUS IN LUKE 1:27, THE WORD VIRGIN IS USED TWICE. AND THEN VERSE 34 USES THE WORD VIRGIN IN THE NAU, NIV AND ESV.

* AND THEN V. 35 SAYS: THE ANGEL ANSWERED **AND SAID TO HER, "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU; AND FOR THAT REASON THE HOLY CHILD SHALL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD."**

** NOW IT SAYS THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WOULD OVERSHADOW MARY.

*** AND THE **WORD "OVERSHADOW" GIVES US** THE PROPER UNDERSTANDING BECAUSE IT IS USED IN THE GREEK O.T., THE SEPTUAGINT, TO **DESCRIBE GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE SANCTUARY** OF THE TABERNACLE AND THEN IN THE N.T. FOR HIS OVERSHADOWING PRESENCE AT THE TRANSFIGURATION WHEN THE **CLOUD OF GOD'S PRESENCE OVERSHADOWED OUR LORD AND PETER, JAMES AND JOHN.**

**** AND **WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE GLORY OF GOD, THE PRESENCE OF GOD, WHAT'S CALLED THE SHEKINAH OF GOD.**

7. AND BELOVED, MARY'S WOMB BECAME A HOLY OF HOLIES FOR THE SON OF GOD.

*** THE GLORY OF GOD'S PRESENCE DESCENDED UPON MARY AND ENVELOPED, SURROUNDED HER AND A CHILD WAS CONCEIVED IN HER WOMB BY THE POWER OF GOD.**

**** AND IT'S NO WONDER THAT IN THE REST OF V. 35, THE ANGEL SAYS, "AND FOR THAT REASON THE HOLY OFFSPRING SHALL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD."**

***** MARY'S OFFSPRING WOULD BE HOLY, SINLESS, NO SIN NATURE WAS PASSED ON THROUGH A SON OF ADAM LIKE JOSEPH.**

**** HER OFFSPRING WAS HOLY, BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT DESCENDED UPON HER AND THROUGH THE POWER OF GOD IMPREGNATED HER, BECAUSE OF THAT HER CHILD WOULD BE THE HOLY SON OF GOD!! WHAT A MIRACLE, NO SEXUAL EXPERIENCE WAS A PART OF THE CONCEPTION, NO MALE SEED - LIKE IN MYTHOLOGY WHERE PAGAN DEITIES CO-HABITATED WITH WOMEN. NO THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH OVER SHADOWED MARY.

8. AND WHAT AN EXPLANATION OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST, WHICH QUICKLY LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT TODAY, WHY IS THE VIRGIN BIRTH IMPORTANT?

IV. WHY IS THE VIRGIN BIRTH IMPORTANT?

A. AND LET ME GIVE YOU THREE REASONS WHY THE VIRGIN BIRTH IS IMPORTANT.

* NO. 1 IT HIGHLIGHTS THE SUPERNATURAL. FOR ON ONE **END OF JESUS' EARTHLY LIFE IS HIS** SUPERNATURAL CONCEPTION AND BIRTH; ON THE OTHER, HIS SUPERNATURAL RESURRECTION. AT BOTH ENDS OF HIS LIFE, THE GOD-**MAN'S AUTHENTICITY WAS ATTESTED** TO BY THE SUPERNATURAL.

** NO. 2, THE VIRGIN BIRTH SHOWS THAT MANKIND NEEDS A SAVIOR THAT IT CANNOT BRING ABOUT ITSELF.

*** AND THE FACT THAT THE HUMAN RACE **COULDN'T PRODUCE ITS OWN SAVIOR IMPLIES** THAT ITS SIN AND GUILT ARE HUGE AND THAT ITS SAVIOR MUST COME FROM OUTSIDE AND ABOVE.

**** BELOVED, THE VIRGIN BIRTH SHOWS THAT SALVATION ULTIMATELY MUST COME FROM THE LORD.

1. NO. 3, THE VIRGIN BIRTH MADE POSSIBLE THE UNITING OF FULL PERFECT DEITY AND FULL HUMANITY, THE HYPOSTATIC UNION, IN ONE PERSON TO BE THE PERFECT SAVIOR.

* **THE VIRGIN BIRTH MAKES POSSIBLE CHRIST'S** TRUE HUMANITY WITHOUT INHERITED SIN, SO HE COULD LEAD A PERFECT LIFE AND BE THE PERFECT SAVIOR, NOT ONE SINNER DYING FOR OTHERS WHOM COULD NOT PURCHASE OUR SALVATION. NO SON OF ADAM COULD SAVE US. **IT WAS THE 2'D ADAM**, QUOTE ROMANS 5:19.

** JESUS WAS NOT FULLY DESCENDED FROM ADAM. THE HUMAN NATURE OF JESUS WAS **CONCEIVED WITHIN HIS MOTHER'S WOMB LIKE** ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING, BUT APART FROM THE SEED OF MAN, FROM HUMAN FERTILIZATION.

*** JESUS EXPERIENCED A REAL BIRTH AND A NORMAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT ADAM DID NOT.

**** CHRIST HAD A NAVAL. ADAM HAD NONE, MEANING ADAM WAS NOT BORN, HE WAS CREATED FROM THE DUST OF THE GROUND, HE DID NOT GO THROUGH THE BIRTH PROCESS. JESUS DID.

2. THUS MANKIND IN A SENSE IS MORE LIKE THE HUMANITY OF JESUS THAN THE HUMANITY OF ADAM.

* AND YES BOTH ADAM AND JESUS WERE EQUALLY HUMAN, BUT THEY GAINED THEIR HUMANITY IN DIFFERENT WAYS, JESUS BY VIRGIN BIRTH, ADAM THROUGH A CREATION ACT. JESUS WAS 100% MAN, IN A SENSE NOT A SON OF ADAM, BUT 100% MAN AND 100% GOD IN THE HYPOSTATIC UNION OF GOD AND MAN. LET THAT MARINATE FOR A WHILE. JESUS WAS **THE 2'D ADAM, DIVINE AND HUMAN IN ONE PERSON.**

IN A QUICK WRAP UP: (1) BECAUSE OF TIME AND ALL THE APPLICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE TODAY, OH THE WONDER OF IT ALL! I TRUST AS YOU CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST ON THURSDAY, IT WILL LEAD GREAT THOUGHTS THAT GLORIFY GOD AND BRING GRATEFULNESS TO YOUR HEART.

* THE HYPOSTATIC UNION AND THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST ARE MIRACULOUS AND ARE INSPIRING AND SHOULD LEAD TO FRESH PASSIONATE WORSHIP OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

** THE PLAN OF SALVATION IS PERFECT. GLORY IN THAT, TRULY BE GRATEFUL FOR IT.

***** AND IF YOU DON'T KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD TODAY, TURN TO HIM, REPENT OF YOUR SIN AND RECEIVE HIM AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR. IT TOOK A PERFECT SINLESS SACRIFICE TO SAVE PEOPLE FROM THEIR SIN.**

**** REMEMBER JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE. HE LIVED IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS. TURN TO HIM TODAY. QUOTE GALATIANS 4:4&5, MATTHEW 1:21 AND LUKE 2:11 AND PRAY.