

Bible Doctrines II
Falls International Baptist Institute
Class Two

The Doctrine of Christ

Introduction: In our first lesson, we studied the pre-existence of Christ. In today's lesson, we will study the Virgin-Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. THE STORY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. Luke 1:26-38 *“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a **virgin espoused** to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and **the virgin's name was Mary**. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, **thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. **For with God nothing shall be impossible.** And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.”*** A virgin by definition is “a person who has never had sexual intercourse”. Webster defines “virgin” as “a woman who has had no carnal knowledge of man”. Mary testifies to this fact when she asked “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” According to Webster, the word “know” in this verse means “to have sexual commerce with.” Mary is clearly stating to the angel “How am I going to conceive and bring forth a son when I have never had a sexual relationship with a man?” This account is very clear that Mary was indeed a virgin! This passage also clearly states that Mary was a virgin “espoused” to a man. **The word “espoused” means “betrothed” or “promised in marriage by contract”.** She was engaged to Joseph but they had not yet come together in the marriage relationship.
- B. Matthew 1:18-25 *“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: **When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband,***

*being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: **for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.** Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.”* We see in this passage again the clarity of God’s Word concerning the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ. This scripture is clear that Joseph and Mary were espoused, had never “come together” in the physical relationship, and yet, she was expecting a Child Who was conceived of the Holy Ghost. This was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. And the emphasis again is on the fact that Joseph and Mary did not have a sexual relationship until after Jesus Christ was born. Once again, the scriptural account clearly declares the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. THE SCRIPTURES CONFIRMING THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

A. Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” – Memorize

1. The importance of this verse cannot be overstated. This is the first mention or promise of the virgin birth of the coming Redeemer within the Scriptures. Satan had seduced the woman into partaking of the forbidden fruit. Now God tells Satan that “*I will put enmity between ...thy seed and her seed.*” The reference to “her seed” is very unusual. **We are the seed of our father, not our mother!** We carry the bloodline of our fathers, not our mothers! God made it clear just as soon as man sinned in the Garden that a Redeemer would come Who would crush the power and authority (the head) of Satan over sinful man! That Redeemer would be born of a woman, but He would not be the seed of a man! The birth of the One Who would redeem the world from the power of Satan would not be a normal man conceived birth. He would be “her seed” or the seed of the woman!
2. A. T. Scofield said “*Such a thought as a woman’s seed, as stated here, is not found elsewhere. Over a hundred times or more, when we read of the seed and seeds, of Abraham’s seed, and so forth, it is always the seed of the man. But the seed of the woman is a*

unique concept, and can only be interpreted as a foreshadowing of the virgin birth...”

3. This verse has been twisted by Roman Catholicism as to make it into a promise that the woman would crush the head of the serpent. That is Mariology. They would make Mary a co-redemptrix in God’s plan of salvation. The Rheims-Duoay version of the Bible says “*She shall bruise thy head*”: but the scripture is clear “*it shall bruise thy head*”. The “*it*” is a reference to “*her seed*”. Salvation would come through “*her seed*” not through “*her*”.
- B. **Isaiah 7:14 says “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” - Memorize**
Isaiah lived 800 years before Jesus Christ was born and he prophesied correctly that a virgin would conceive and bear a son. Matthew 1:22-23 confirms that the virgin birth of Jesus Christ was a fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. We will examine at the end of the lesson the seriousness of denying these scriptures concerning the virgin birth.
- C. Jeremiah 31:22 is another prophecy concerning the virgin birth. Just as Isaiah said “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign”, Jeremiah is saying “*the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.*” The sign that God would give to backsliding Israel and the world was that God Himself would create (without the help of a man) within the body of a woman a new kind of man. A man Who was God and Man: the God-Man!
- D. Galatians 4:4-5a says “*But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law...*” This passage in Galatians is clear that Christ Jesus was “*made of a woman*”. That means that he was miraculously made of the substance of a woman.
- E. Hebrews 10:5 says “*Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.*” God the Holy Ghost literally prepared the body of the Lord Jesus Christ in the womb of the virgin named Mary.

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. **The Virgin Birth was the only way for God to be manifest in the flesh!**
I Timothy 3:16 says “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...*” God calls His own incarnation a mystery. Outside of the explanation of God’s Word, there is no other explanation. It must be believed by faith! “*Who is there with all his innate and acquired wisdom able to explain the mystery of -*
- *The Ancient of Days becoming a babe at Bethlehem*
- *Him who thunders in the heavens crying in a cradle*
- *Him who gives to all their meat in due season, sucking at a mother’s breast*

- *Him who made all flesh now made of flesh*
- *Him who could summon legions of angels, while wrapped in infant's clothes*
- *The mighty God now a helpless child*
- *God and man becoming one Person.” – Herbert Lockyer*

There was no other way that God could become a part of flesh and blood in order to save His own sinful creation than to be made of and born of a woman. If Jesus had been “made of a man”, He could not have been sinless!

- B. **The Virgin Birth was necessary as it allowed Jesus to carry the Sinless Nature of His Heavenly Father into this world as a man.** He was Holy and Harmless. He was impeccable. He could not sin. He could be tempted, but He could not sin. Had He been a descendant of Adam's sinful race, He would have carried Adam's sin nature. Romans 5:12 teaches that Adam's sin nature and its consequence of death was passed upon all men. We are sinners by nature. But Jesus Christ is not the seed of Adam; He was conceived by the Holy Ghost. He carried the nature of the sinless God into His human body! Romans 5 goes on to teach us that just as we inherited a sin nature from our earthly father, Adam, at birth; even so we inherit the Divine nature from our Heavenly Father at the new birth.
- C. **The Virgin Birth was necessary as Jesus HAD TO PARTAKE of flesh and blood in order to redeem sinful man:** Hebrews 2:14-15 says *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”* The only way He could destroy the power and authority of Satan, and redeem us from death was to fulfill the promise of Genesis 3:15 and become one of us! The virgin birth of Jesus Christ allowed God to become man, live where we do, undergo temptation like we do, and win the victory over sin and Satan by going to the cross as our sinless substitutionary Sacrifice and dying as the penalty of our sins and then raising from the dead. In so doing, He conquered sin, Satan, death, Hell, and the grave!!!
- D. **The Virgin Birth is significant as it proves the reliability of the Scriptures.** If the Virgin Birth were a myth, then the Bible COULD NOT be true. Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1, Luke 2, Galatians 4:4 would all be lies! The Bible is clear that *“God cannot lie”* (Titus 1:2). John 17:17 says *“thy word is truth”*. The virgin birth is a part of the doctrine of Christ. To deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is to deny the doctrine of Christ. It is impossible for a saved man to deny the virgin birth! **II John 9 says “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” - Memorize**
- E. Let me summarize the significance of the virgin birth of Christ by saying that if the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is not true, than the prophets are

wrong; the scriptures are false; the Word of God is void; Jesus was a sinner; therefore, He could not possibly redeem us. But I believe God!

Conclusion: "Here is a man who was born in a lowly manger, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never went to college. He never owned a house. He never had a family. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He had nothing to do with this world except the power of his divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies. He went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while dying—his coat. When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed tomb through the pity of a friend. Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone. Today he is the center-piece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has THAT ONE SOLITARY LIFE." – Phillips Brooks

Jesus Christ is the greatest Man Who ever lived! The virgin birth made that possible!