

The Necessity of the Virgin Birth

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters

Various Scripture

Galatians 4:4–5, *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*

There are several amazing, miraculous births recorded in the pages of Scripture. God specifically tells us of six women in the Bible who were called barren, who without the miraculous intervention of God were unable to conceive and bear a child.

- Sarah, the wife of Abraham (Genesis 11:30). Mother to Isaac (She was 100 years old & laughed at the thought)
- Rebekah, the wife of Isaac (Genesis 25:21). Mother to Esau and Jacob. (Isaac prayed for her to conceive and God gave her twins)
- Rachel, the wife of Jacob (Genesis 29:31, 30:1-2). Mother to Joseph. (She cried out to her husband, “Give me children, or else I die.” But we are reminded that it is in God’s timing. Genesis 30:22-23)
- Manoah’s wife (Judges 13:2-5). Mother to Samson.
- Hannah, the wife of Elkanah (1 Samuel 1:2). Mother to Samuel, who would become a priest and anoint Saul and David as Kings.
- Elizabeth, the wife of Zacharias (Luke 1:7, 36). Mother to John the Baptist, who would herald to the world to repent announcing the arrival of the Messiah.

But there is no greater account of a more miraculous birth than that of Mary’s birth of Jesus. She was a virgin. Today, we will examine the significance of the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though the virgin birth is often a target of doubt, skepticism, and outright denial by many, today we will see its necessity to Biblical theology, prophecy, and history, demand a virgin birth. In the coming weeks, we will gather and sing the hymn, *Silent Night*. May we know the truth we sing about more deeply and profoundly! The virgin birth of the Lord Jesus surpasses all other births recorded in human history.¹

I. The Scriptural Accounts of the Virgin Birth²

- A. Two Gospel writers capture the narrative surrounding the virgin birth Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 1:26-38
- B. Matthew records Joseph’s perspective on the announcement of Mary’s expectation of a child while Luke focuses on Mary’s deliberations as a new mother to be.
- C. Luke speaks to Mary’s godly character, favor, and obedience to the Lord (Luke 1:28, 38), while Matthew speaks to Joseph being a just man who was obedient to the Lord (Matt 1:19, 24-25)
- D. Both Gospel writers insist on the sexual purity of Mary leading up to her conceiving the Lord Jesus (Luke 1:27, Matt 1:18, 20, 23, 25)

II. Biblical History Demands a Virgin Birth

- A. Matthew records Joseph’s Jewish (to Abraham) and kingly lineage (to David/Solomon) in Matthew 1:1-17.
- B. In this line of Kings, we find one Jechonias (or, Coniah) mentioned in Matthew 1:11. In a normal reading, we fly right by and keep going. But, today, let’s find out who this was and why he matters to the virgin birth.
 1. In Jeremiah, we find this prophecy regarding Coniah in Jeremiah 22:24-30.
 2. **Jeremiah 22:29–30**, *O land, land, land, hear the word of the Lord! 30 Thus says the Lord: “Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah.”*
- C. The word of the Lord cursed any future kings from Coniah’s lineage onward. Thus, any natural born son of Joseph would be under this curse.
- D. Jesus, as the virgin born, Son of God and not the natural born Son of Joseph, is not subject to this curse!

III. Theology Demands the Virgin Birth

- A. The Doctrine of Sin demands a virgin birth (Romans 5:12-21)
 1. **Romans 5:12–15**, *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,*

¹ MacArthur, John F., Jr. *Matthew*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1985.

² Zacharias, H. Daniel. “Jesus, Virgin Birth of.” Edited by John D. Barry, David Bomar, Derek R. Brown, Rachel Klippenstein, Douglas Mangum, Carrie Sinclair Wolcott, Lazarus Wentz, Elliot Ritzema, and Wendy Widder. *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016.

and so death spread to all men because all sinned— **13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. **15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

2. Adam, as the son God (Luke 3:38), was created in righteousness and placed in a world untainted by sin.
 3. Adam, as the representative head of people, violated God's command and as a result sin entered the world.
 4. No one born of Adam's lineage would qualify as an acceptable sacrifice to God because of sin's impact.
 5. Men and women are either "in Adam" where all die, or "in Christ" where all live (Galatians 3:15-20; Rom 1:3-4; Rom 5:12-21, esp 18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-28, 45-49). The only way to be found in Christ is through the new birth (John 3).
- B. The pre-existence and deity of Jesus, as Son of God, demands a virgin birth
1. **Isaiah 9:6**, *For to us a child is born* (his humanity), *to us a son is given* (his deity); *and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.
 2. **John 1:1–2, 14**, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth*.
 3. Galatians 4:4 (top of page 1)
- C. Without a virgin birth, the sinlessness of Jesus would be at stake (Romans 5:12, all born to Adam sin)³ This is at the heart of Jesus truly being God and truly being man. **John 6:69**, *And we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God*.⁴ **Hebrews 7:26**, *For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens*.
- D. Every doctrine of Jesus life & ministry would be at stake⁴
- E. The integrity of the Gospel accounts is at stake⁵
- F. The lie of Satan would be credible⁶
1. **1 John 4:1–3**, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already*.
 2. **2 John 7**, *For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist*.
 3. **1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)**, *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory*.

IV. Biblical Prophecy Demands the Virgin Birth

- A. The Savior would be born of the seed of a woman (Genesis 3:15)
- B. The Blessing to all nations would come from the nation of Israel (Genesis 12:1-3)
- C. The King would be born from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10)
- D. The King would be born to the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-17)
- E. The Ruler in Israel will be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- F. The Season of Messiah's birth (Daniel 9:24-27, esp. vs. 26)
- G. The Scepter's association with a star (Numbers 24:17, Genesis 49:10, Revelation 22:16)
- H. The Sign of His coming would be a virgin woman's conception (**Isaiah 7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*.)

³ MacArthur, John, ed. *Essential Christian Doctrine: A Handbook on Biblical Truth*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2021.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid