

Why The Virgin Birth Matters

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study
Various Scripture

It's the season of awe and wonder. Terms like "magical" are often used to describe the feelings surrounding Christmas. But I submit today that Christmas, in the sense that we use it as believers, is not magical but miraculous. And that miracle we celebrate is divine. It is not an anomaly of nature or incidental to the universe. The miracle was a divine symphony of events calculated with fine precision to move forward God's plan of redemption.

Without this miracle, the divine plan of redemption would be lost and never found. If time, place, and circumstance were distorted by any delay, relocation, or derailment, the plan would collapse. Everything in God's plan of redemption is dependent on the delivery of this miracle in accordance with Scripture.

Several notable, "miraculous" births are 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**), was the 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 the world to repent, announcing the arrival of the Messiah.

I. The Scriptural Accounts of the Virgin Birth¹

- 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 conception (Luke 1:27, Matt 1:18, 20, 23, 25)

II. Because Salvation is of the Lord

- A. Just as God promised in Genesis 3:15 (the seed of the woman) would ultimately destroy the serpent, God brought this about by His power and it was not the result of human effort.
- B. The virgin birth reminds us that our salvation comes through the supernatural work of God Himself.
 1. **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.*

III. Because of the Uniting of Two Natures in one person.

- A. Jesus was truly God and truly man in one person. One person in which full deity and full humanity are united. No other "delivery system" for the Son of God clearly unites humanity and deity in one person.
 1. God could have created Jesus in heaven as a human being and sent Him, but it would be hard to see Him as fully human.

¹ 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.

-
2. If Jesus would have been sent into the world by way of two human parents with His full divine nature miraculously united to his human nature at some point in His life, it would be difficult to see Him as fully God.
 3. Wayne Grudem says it like this, *“God, in his wisdom, ordained a combination of human and divine influence in the birth of Christ, so that his full humanity would be evident to us from the fact of his ordinary human birth from a human mother, and his full deity would be evident from the fact of his conception in Mary’s womb by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.”*²

IV. Because of Sin the Virgin Birth Matters

- A. Through natural generation, all human beings inherit legal guilt and a corrupt moral nature from their first father (“inherited sin” or “original sin”)
- B. Catholic doctrine teaches that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception (Immaculate Conception) by a singular grace of God. The Bible does not affirm this doctrine, instead:
 1. Conception was through the Holy Spirit, not through the normal reproductive process preventing transmission of the sin nature.
 2. Some theologians argue the sin nature is passed through the father not the mother.
 3. Jesus possessed a divine nature that was inherently sinless.
 4. Unique circumstances prevented the transmission of the divine nature.
 5. Jesus was “set apart” Hebrews 7:26.

V. Because of the History of the Kings the Virgin Birth Matters

- 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!

VI. Because of Biblical Prophecy the Virgin Birth Matters

- 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.**)

² Grudem, Wayne. 2020. *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic. (664)