

Virgin Birth

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99 Essentials

From The 99 Essential Doctrines

The Bible affirms that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38). The virgin birth affirms the historicity of the incarnation, where the eternal Son of God took on human flesh. The virgin birth is significant in that it serves as a reminder of Old Testament prophecies (Isa. 7) while also affirming both the deity and humanity of Christ.

From The Bible

Genesis 3:15 NKJV

And I will put enmity

Between you and the woman,

And between your seed and her Seed;

He shall bruise your head,

And you shall bruise His heel.”

Isaiah 7:14 NKJV

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the

virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18–25 NKJV

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. ²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

²³ “*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*” which is translated, “God with us.”

²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

²⁵ and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

Luke 1:26–38 NKJV

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by

God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!"

²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The* Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible."

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord!

Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Romans 5:12 NKJV

¹² Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Galatians 4:4 NKJV

⁴ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

Key Thoughts

There are two primary reasons Jesus’ virgin birth is important

1. Prophecy - God, speaking through the prophets, indicated Messiah would be born of a virgin. If He was not, the authority of the Bible and the authenticity of salvation is questionable.
2. Redemption - Guilt for—and a bent toward—sin is on Adam and his sons (ie, men). Though Mary had a sin nature herself, inherited from her father, Jesus did not have the innate guilt that we share. His perfection was something He voluntarily maintained, passing the test that Adam failed. He was thus suited to be our savior.

Additional Thoughts

The Lexham Bible Dictionary Arguments for the Historicity of the Virgin Birth

Ultimately, there could be no good reason to invent this

story, as it raised the same intellectual questions for the early church that it raises for the church today.

Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible Theological Implications

From the beginning, as attested in Matthew and Luke as well as the early patristic writers, the virgin birth has been a cardinal doctrine of the church. As such it is a living symbol of the twofold nature of our Lord, born of the Holy Spirit and of woman, and uniting the human and divine into the incarnate God-man, Jesus Christ. The teaching of the NT is clear on these aspects.

The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Volumes 1–5 3. Objections to the Dogma

Our Lord's sinlessness was not mechanically guaranteed by His miraculous conception (see VIRGIN BIRTH) but was His own achievement through the Holy Spirit granted to Him and personally appropriated.