

Series: The Fundamentals

The Virgin Birth **Of Christ**

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The Virgin Birth Of Christ

While some fundamental doctrines find repeated mention from our pulpits and in our teaching ministries, there are other equally important doctrines that at times do not receive the same attention. Virgin Birth is one such doctrine and it is high time that we gave due attention to it in our generation. Here is a doctrine that is an important part of Christology, the doctrine of Christ. It is mentioned many times in the Bible, in prophetic as well as historic contexts. In historic context (in the gospels) it is narrated in great detail. Yet we do not hear much about virgin birth of Christ because over time people tend to overlook the fundamentals and instead start emphasize things which are visible, which are related to good life, and which are good to induce emotions.

In other words, when the Christian faith becomes “purpose-driven” instead of biblically based “principle-driven” then a lot of important principles are forgotten. As a result, the purpose-driven Christian life eventually begins to resemble the

practical life of good Hindus, Muslims, or Buddhists. This is why one needs to study Bible doctrine.

The doctrine of Virgin Birth: According to this doctrine, Lord Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. Or rather, the pregnancy of his human mother was a virgin-pregnancy. In this case, there was no sexual union of a man and a woman, but rather the embryo was formed in her as a result of a miracle performed by God the Holy Spirit.

Biblical References: The earliest direct reference to Virgin Birth is found in Genesis 3:15 which says "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." Here the Messiah is specifically referred as the seed of the "Woman" and not of man, though a person is always referred as the offspring of his father.

The above passage in Genesis is explained and reinforced through a direct prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 which 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." This prophecy

makes it clear that rather than being a seed of man and woman, the Messiah would be born of a woman without any contribution from man. Thus the Messiah would be virgin-born.

A few centuries after this prophecy comes the narratives related to the conception and birth of Christ. They make clear that Mary conceived not through Joseph, but through a direct divine intervention of God the Holy Spirit. We read:

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. (Matthew 1:18-25),

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. (Luke 1:26-35)

The two passages above make it clear that Mary was a virgin when she conceived the Lord Jesus. That the prophecy about the Virgin-birth of the Messiah that came through Isaiah was fulfilled is then affirmed in Matthew 1:23 where we read, "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."

Thus starting from the prophetic passage in Genesis about the Seed of the Woman up to the gospels the

theme of the Virgin-birth of Christ is found repetitively in the Bible. It is found in the form of prophecy, as historical report, and also as confirmation that the prophecy has been fulfilled via the virgin-conception of Mary. There are scores of other verses that we can cite on this topic, but the above-mentioned key verses would suffice for our present study.

Reason For The Virgin Birth: The Savior of mankind had to be sinless. At the same time, we read in Psalms, 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me". This is a reminder that conception is the point when human sin nature is passed on to the next generation. This means that if Lord Jesus had to be free from sin, His coming into Mary's womb should take place in some way other than normal man-woman related conception. The divine solution is Virgin-conception and virgin-birth: a conception and birth without the intervention of humans in the formation of an embryo.

Through Virgin-conception and Virgin-birth God simply bypassed the normal route of birth through sexual union. Instead, He used Mary as a vessel to

carry the Messiah, but the conception took place through the miraculous outworking of the Holy Spirit. This is Virgin birth.

Importance Of The Doctrine: The Lord Jesus had to be both God and true man to be man's Savior. The same thing was necessary for Him to be an intermediary. At the same time He had to be totally sinless. These, and many other requirements to become a God-man-savior, are possible only if He came to this world as totally human, but without a sin nature. Virgin-conception is the solution that God offered in this matter. Thus here is a doctrine that is both important as well as non-negotiable. Any compromise with this doctrine will end up with diluting of all other fundamental doctrines.

In essence, this is a non-negotiable fundamental doctrine of the Bible. Church History has ample examples to demonstrate that anyone who questions or minimizes this doctrine eventually questions or minimizes EVERY fundamental teaching of the Scripture. He even ends up questioning the divinity of Lord Jesus Christ.

A Very Small Sample Of Some Of The Proposed/Planned 100 Or More Topics

- The God-Man
- The Virgin Birth of Christ
- The Deity of Christ
- The Inspiration of the Bible
- The Bible Canon
- Bible and Science
- The Purposes of the Incarnation
- The Person and Work of Jesus Christ
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Filling of the Holy Spirit
- Doctrine of Trinity
- Salvation for all
- Salvation by Grace
- Justification by Faith
- Christ as the Only Savior
- Sola Scriptura
- Human Origins
- Human Destiny
- Bible and Evolution
- Anthropology/Doctrine of Man
- Biblical Sociology
- Separation from the World
- Christian Holiness
- Sainthood of Belivers
- Priesthood of Belivers

Please Join The Crusade For Rebuilding

Conservative, or Fundamentalists are the REAL Christians because only they uphold the fundamentals. Everyone who is born-again is a child of God, and we love them. HOWEVER, not everyone has the same commitment. That is the point of difference. We invite you to become a Christian committed to the Fundamentals. We also invite you to SPREAD these books far and wide. Join the revival.

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