

His Virgin Birth – The Immaculate Conception?

- **Definition.** *Incarnation* = lit. 'in flesh' [to 'take on' or 'enter into' flesh]. *John 1.14: The Word was made [became] flesh. Virgin birth* = conceive in her womb [Spirit] and bring forth a son, *apart* from sexual relations. Luke 1.31.
- Incarnation = the *fact* God the Son became a man. Virgin birth = the *means* by which it was accomplished.
- *JD Pentecost: Through the miracle of the virgin birth, the eternal Son of the eternal God reached out and took to Himself a true and complete humanity without diminishing His essential deity. He united deity and humanity inseparably and eternally in one Person.*
- God formed man in *four* ways. 1. From a man *and* a woman [procreation]. 2. From *neither* man nor woman [creation]. 3. From a *man* without a woman [formation]. 4. From a *woman* without a man [incarnation].
- **Significance.** *If He is virgin born, then He's God [Immanuel]. His word has ultimate authority. Huge implications for mankind. If He is not virgin born, Jesus is merely a man. Huge implications for salvation and Scripture.*

Virgin Birth in PROPHECY [Isa. 7.14]

- Note Gen. 3.15. 'Seed of the **woman**' [singular verb and pronoun] shall 'bruise' [crush] the serpent's head.
- Isaiah 7 = king of *Syria* [Rezin] and *Israel* [Pekah] conspired to attack *Ahaz* [remove Davidic king]. God's honour is at stake [covenant]. Isaiah gives *assurance* of victory [vv.7-9]. *Offers* a confirming sign [v.11]. Refused.
- God gave a 'sign' to the 'house of David' [v.13] = a virgin [*almah*] shall conceive [v.14]! Not 'young woman'. Stated as *being* 'fulfilled' [Matt. 1.22-23]. Spirit uses the word 'virgin' [*parthenos*].
- Though enemies sought to *terminate* the dynasty of David, God promises a unique Son to sit upon the throne.
- v.11: 'in the depth [*sheol*]' or 'in the height' [something extraordinary]. *Glory* of His Person. *Humility* of death.

Virgin Birth in HISTORY [Luke 1]

- **WHAT?** [v.31] 'conceive' = to become *pregnant* [cf. v.36]. Nine-month pregnancy [cp. 1.57 'full-time came'; 2.6]. As Elisabeth, she '*brought forth* [gave birth] her firstborn son' [2.7]. Language suggests a *physical* link with Mary.
- Gnostic heresy [Valentinus, 100-160AD]. *Christ passed through Mary as water flows through a pipe.* 'Seed of the woman' [Gen. 3]. 'Made of a woman' [Gal. 4.4]. His 'mother' [John 19]. 'Fruit of thy womb' [Luke 1]. This is true humanity. He is fully man. Man as God intended man to be.
- **HOW?** [v.31, 35] *Spirit* conception [Holy Ghost shall come upon thee] and *power* protection [overshadow thee]. 'holy thing' = lit. 'a holy born one'. Not innocent. We are *Adam* reproduced! Christ was not born under Adam's headship nor a member of his fallen race [*begotten* of God]. No taint of sin [**IY EWAN**]. This is holy humanity.
- **WHO?** [v.31] *Saviour* [Jesus]. v.32: *Strength* [great]. *Son* [essence] of the Highest. *Sovereign*. Son of God [v.35]. This is divine humanity [for this Man is God]. He must be deity if He is going to be a Mediator between God and man. He must be deity if His work at Calvary is going to be sufficient for all of humanity, and creation.
- Not the God-man [as if half one, half another]. Full deity. Perfect humanity. *Two* distinct natures in one person.

Virgin Birth and HERESY

- **Immaculate conception.** Pope Pius [1854]. Mary 'preserved immune from all stain of original sin' [at *her* conception]. Claim that she was sinless. But she considered herself a *sinner* in need of a Saviour [1.47].
- **Perpetual virginity** [Luther]. But 'Joseph knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn Son' [Matt. 1.25].
- **Transubstantiation.** *Deity* of Christ turned into the *humanity* of Jesus. But see Phil. 2.6-7. *When the Saviour came from heaven to earth, he didn't leave his Godhood behind [cease to be God]. When he left earth and went back to heaven, he did not leave his manhood behind.*

Virgin Birth – its NECESSITY

- **Salvation** [Heb. 2.14; 9.22]. Manhood required for *death* and the *removal* of sins [Heb. 9.22].
- **Sovereign** [Luke 1.32]. Impossible! Jer. 22.30: Curse of Jeconiah [Jehoiachin] – no descendant permanently 'sit' on the throne [Matt. 1.11]! Two genealogies. *Legal* right to throne through *Joseph* [Matthew]. *Physical* [lineal] right through *Mary* [Luke]. Virgin birth ensured no part with *Joseph*. Descended from David [Nathan].
- **Succour** [Heb. 2.18]. Only a *man* could be the priest for God's people. Loneliness. Persecution. Poverty. Betrayal.

*Without a trace of Adam's sin,
A Man unique in origin,
All fair without, all pure within,
Our blessed Lord!*

IY EWAN