

Thursday School
October 1, 2020

"His Son—Made of a Woman" Galatians 4:4



*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see.
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel.*

I. The Mystery of His Birth

"The fact that the omnipotent, eternal Son of God could become man and join himself to a human nature...will remain for eternity the most profound miracle and the most profound mystery in all the universe." Wayne Grudem

A. *Why God Became A Man*, by St. Anslem

- ❖ Gives 4 ways in which God can make man:
 1. **By the law of natural generation→ a man and a woman.**
 2. **Without the agency of either man or woman→Adam.**
 3. **A man without a woman→Eve.**
 4. **Through the divine empowering of a man and a woman both past age→Abraham and Sarah.**
- ❖ **If these be admitted, as they must be if the Scripture records are accepted as authoritative and trustworthy, it is but a step to believe that:**
 5. **Jesus was born of a woman without a man, that he was begotten by the Holy Spirit.**
Matthew 1:20
Luke 1:35

B. If we accept that Jesus was the incarnate Son of God, does not belief in the Virgin Birth become logically inevitable?

C. Who could be the Father of the Son of God but God Himself?

II. The Meaning of the Virgin Birth

What does the term, *virgin birth* mean?

A. It does not mean:

- ❖ **Jesus was born in a manner different from other children.**

- ❖ That there was merely a miraculous conception as in the case of Elizabeth who was past age.
 - ❖ Immaculate conception as taught by the Roman Catholic Church, which asserts that Mary was conceived and born without original sin, a claim for which there is NO Scriptural support.
- B. "It was a Virgin conception entirely without parallel."
- ❖ Contrary to the course of nature, Jesus was miraculously conceived in the womb of Mary.
 - ❖ In His case, "the ordinary processes of the transmission of the racial heritage were interrupted by the miraculously conception."
 - ❖ Such a birth was foreshadowed in the OT.
 - ❖ Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23

III. The Alternatives to the Virgin Birth

A. Harry Emerson Fosdick, The Riverside Church, "I want to assure you that I do not believe in the virgin birth of Christ, and I hope none of you do."

B. Consider the alternatives which faces us if the virgin birth is fiction and not fact. According to J. Oswald Sanders:

- ❖ The NT narratives are false, and the Bible is robbed of its authority.
- ❖ Mary, instead of being blessed among women is branded as unchaste, for Joseph asserted that Jesus was not his son.
- ❖ Jesus becomes the natural child of sinful parents which at once rules out His pre-existence, with the result that there was no real incarnation.
- ❖ We are deprived of any adequate explanation of His unique character and sinless life.
- ❖ He was begotten of a human father—and that is the only alternative to virgin birth—he was not the Second Person of the Trinity as he claimed, and therefore had no power to forgive sin.
- ❖ If this miracle is denied, where do we stop? Logically we would deny all miracles. The question really is, are we willing to accept the super naturalistic claims of Scripture or not?

IV. In the incarnation we see His power and His greatness, as well as His meekness, His humility, and His love as he made Himself of no reputation.

A. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

B. John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

- ❖ He left the glory, the splendor, the riches of heaven. He left the presence of God and came down to this earth. He pierced the time barrier, the geography barrier. He came to this earth; He became flesh and He dwelt among us→among US.
- ❖ The infinite became finite, the immortal became mortal, and the Creator became as one of His creatures.

C. Philippians 2:6-7

"who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."

- ❖ He emptied Himself at the Incarnation, by becoming a man.

D. So, why did He come to this world?

I Timothy 1:15, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" He did it to bring us to God.