



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of Ashley River Baptist Church

The Hope of Christmas: The Miracle Birth

Luke 1: 26-38

I. THE POSSIBILITY

You must believe the witness of the Scriptures that Christ was born to a virgin for the same God who could empower a virgin birth can likewise empower a new birth within you!

To believe in the virgin birth you must believe in miracles because by every definition of the word, the virgin birth was a miracle.

Miracle: A miracle is a violation or contradiction of what we perceive to be the natural law – the natural order of how things work.

Proof: Something known from experience that is so probable that it leaves no room for doubt.

David Hume

1. A miracle by definition is a violation of or exception to a law of nature.
2. The laws of nature are built upon the highest degree of probability – what we always observe.
3. Thus a miracle by definition (as an exception) is based on the lowest degree of probability
4. Now, the wise man should always base his belief on the highest degree of probability.
5. Therefore, the wise man should never believe in miracles since they are based on the lowest degree of probability.

Virgin Birth is a violation of natural law and an extremely low probability and thus is rejected by many.

A response to a miracle by skeptics is to deny it ever happened or to seek some scientific or rational explanation.

But, if God did create the universe and its laws, He is free at any time to suspend or violate those laws and intervene in time and space thus making anything possible - even Virgin Birth.

Where there is God, there is hope.

II. THE PROOF

Mary and Joseph were pure in their relationship: Lk 1: 27 "...to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph"

Luke asserts 3 times that Mary is a virgin in Lk 1: 27, 34.

Virgin: *an unmarried young maiden woman who has had no sexual relations*

Matthew affirms it in Mt 1:18

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit."

Prophecy foretold and anticipated the virgin birth.

Mt 1: 22-23 22 "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

Isaiah 7: 14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

III. THE PURPOSE

The virgin birth reveals that Jesus is not of the lineage of Adam, the first man who sinned against God.

"Isn't this Mary's son..." Mk 6:3

By eating the forbidden fruit, Adam brought a curse and judgment on all of his descendants and all creation.

Genesis 2:17 "but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Adam produced offspring in his own likeness. Gen 5:3 "When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image, and he named him Seth."

Through his children and generations to come, the consequence of his sin has affected us all: Original Sin

In the Old Testament, the only way for sin to be removed (atoned for) in a man was for a perfect animal sacrifice with out blemish to be made on his behalf. In the new testament, Jesus was that "perfect sacrifice" without sin who died to atone for our sins. Thus it was important that he did not bear the sin nature and corruption of Adam.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:20 "But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Hebrews 7:26 "Such a high priest meets our need-- one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens."

Luke 4:34 "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are-- the Holy One of God!"

Jesus is the "new" Adam

1 Corinthians 15:45 "So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

The result is that Jesus is fully God and thus God dwells among us.

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel (God with us)"

IV. The Significance

God is with us.

God can do miracles making them now possible in our presence.

As He brought the virgin birth, God can bring "rebirth" within us by forgiving us of our sins.

Christ destroys the power of Satan & sin Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Just as Jesus reversed the curse of sin in the world as the "new Adam" so He can reverse and remove the curse of sin in your life through "rebirth" – being born again!

As Mary submitted herself to God, so we must likewise surrender ourselves to the operation of God's holy Spirit.

John 1:12 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"

With the advent of the miracle of the virgin birth, we now know that miracles are possible and that indeed in Christ all things are possible. This is the miraculous hope of Christmas!

The same God who could empower a virgin birth can likewise give you a new birth

Like Mary, we must submit and fully release ourselves unto the Lord and make her commitment our commitment.

Luke 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at this words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.