

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Int.

1. Aim: To explain what the Bible teaches about the virgin birth and why it is necessary to know and believe this great truth.
2. "What think ye of Christ? Whose son is he?" Matt. 22:42
 - a. Was he conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary?
 - b. Was he the natural son of Joseph and Mary or some other man and Mary?
 - c. Some claim that Jesus was the illegitimate son of a Roman Soldier.
3. Virgin birth is doubted by some and denied by others
 - a. Many religious leaders doubt that Jesus was born of a virgin
 - b. The modernist rejects it saying it is an impossibility for a child to be born of just the mother.
 - c. Some professors today laugh at anyone who believes in the virgin birth
4. There are only two views we have about the virgin birth
 - a. Accept and believe it - like many did in the days of Christ
 - b. Deny and reject - like many did while Christ lived on the earth
5. Is it important to believe in the virgin birth?
 - a. The modernist tells us that is not very important
 - b. If we reject the virgin birth then we must doubt the death and resurrection
 - c. If we reject these things then we must reject the Bible as our authority
 - d. If all miraculous events are rejected then we must reject the miracles of Christ and reject that he was the son of God who died for our sins

- e. If the virgin birth is not true, then Christ is not supernatural.
 - i. His life, his sinlessness, his miracles, and his resurrection are affected by his birth.
 - ii. If we reject the virgin birth all else must go.
- 6. Notice the evidence of the Virgin Birth of Christ

Discussion

I. EVIDENCE FROM PROPHECY

- A. Gen. 3:15 "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."
 - 1. This is unusual because the Hebrew language always gives the prominence to the man and not to the woman in a listing of genealogies
 - 2. But it is the "seed of woman" not the "seed of man" that will bruise the serpent's head
 - 3. There is no way to understand this apart from the virgin birth of Christ.
- B. Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
 - 1. Isaiah looked 700 years into the future when he made this statement
 - 2. The fulfillment of this prophecy is in the birth of Jesus - Matt. 1:22-23
 - 3. There can be no doubt as to the application of this prophecy
 - 4. A Sign
 - a. An ordinary birth would not be regarded as a sign.
 - b. Young women have been giving birth to children since the days of Eve

- c. But this referred to something unusual, something supernatural.
 - d. It was a case of one parent, the mother, giving birth to a son.
 - e. Illustration of a sign:
 - (1) Rain falling on a summer day is ordinary
 - (2) Snow falling from a cloudless sky on a summer day would be a sign of divine intervention.
5. Who is the virgin in Isa. 7:14 ?
- a. Was she the wife of Isaiah?
 - (1) No because she was married
 - (2) She already had a son.
 - b. Was it the wife of Ahaz?
 - (1) No she was already married and had a son
 - (2) There is no passage suggesting that this was fulfilled with this woman.
 - c. Was there a dual fulfillment?
 - (1) Many hold the view that it was fulfilled in the days of Isaiah and then with Mary and the birth of Jesus.
 - (2) This is not what the Bible says.
 - d. It was Mary
 - (1) The mother of Jesus is the virgin of Isa. 7:14
 - (2) Matt. 1:22-23

- C. Some deny Isaiah's prediction by saying the word Virgin here means a young woman of marriageable age, but not necessarily a virgin
1. The Hebrew word "Almah"
 - a. Translated "Virgin" in KJV is translated "Young woman" in the RSV
 - b. Is this Almah chaste or unchaste? Pure or impure?
 - (1) If she is unmarried, unchaste, impure then it is not a prophecy and can not apply to Christ !
 - (2) If she is pure, chaste and unmarried then the only way she could give birth to a son would be as a Virgin.
 - (3) This was fulfilled only one time in Matt. 1:22-23
 - c. There was no virgin birth in Isaiah's day, but it was fulfilled when the babe of Bethlehem was born.
 - d. His name was to be Immanuel, or "God with Us"
 2. The word "Almah" is used here and in 6 other places and it is always used in the sense of an unmarried maiden. [Gen. 24:43, Exodus 2:8, Ps. 68:25, Prov. 30:19 and Song of Solomon 1:3 and 6:8]
 3. When the Old Testament was translated into Greek the Septuagint translators used the word "Parthenos" for the word "Almah". This word "Parthenos" can only mean a virgin
- D. The evidence from prophecy shows that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary.

II. EVIDENCE FROM THE N.T. WRITERS

- A. Matthew tells the story from Joseph's point of view
1. Matt. 1:1-25
 - a. He uses the word "begat" 39 times
 - b. But in v. 16 he does not use it in reference to Jesus
 2. After Mary's engagement [betrothal] to Joseph she was found with child
 3. It caused embarrassment to Joseph and he was thinking of putting her away
 4. God appeared to him in a dream and explained to him that which was conceived in Mary was of the Holy Spirit and was in fulfillment of prophecy.
 5. Matthew sets forth the virginity of the mother of Jesus
 6. Was Matthew inspired in his statements?
 - a. If we reject the virgin birth of Christ then we reject the inspiration of Matthew.
 - b. Was Matthew a deliberate liar? Was he deceived? Was he deliberately trying to deceive others?
- B. Mark
1. Mark has no account of the birth of Christ
 2. He starts with the public life and ministry of Jesus
 3. Just because he does not mention it does not mean there was no virgin Birth.
 - a. By this we could say Christ was not born at all
 - b. Mark does not report the Sermon on the Mount. Does that mean it was never delivered?
 4. Mark says nothing that contradicts Matthew and Luke's account of the birth.
 5. He does record the claim of Jesus in Mark 14:61,62 that he was the Christ.

C. Luke

1. Luke gives us Mary's side of the story - Luke 1:26-38
2. When told that she was to have a child she said: "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" This proves her virginity.
3. She was told that the Holy Spirit was to conceive the child - it would be a son who shall be called the Son of God - v. 35
4. Luke 3:23 "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli."

D. JOHN

1. He does not expressly mention the virgin birth
2. He begins with the Pre-existence of Christ with God - John 1:1-2 and v. 14
3. Christ [The Word] was with God and became Flesh and dwelt among men
4. How did Jesus become the son of Mary? John does not tell; but he does call him the "only begotten son" John 1:18
5. If Jesus was the son of Joseph how could he be the "only begotten from the father" ??? John 3:16
6. Only through the virgin birth could the divine and human natures of Christ be united in one person.

E. All the gospels

1. Those who deal with the childhood tell of the virgin birth - Matthew and Luke
2. Those which do not mention it say nothing to contradict it, but use language that cannot be understood without assuming the virgin birth.

F. Paul

1. He gives emphasis to the pre-fleshly state of our Lord
 - a. Phil. 2:5-7 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"
 - b. Christ was something other than man
 - c. He existed in the form of God before coming into the world
 - d. He was made in the likeness of men through the virgin birth.
2. He tells how Christ was man in the likeness of men in Gal. 4:4 NKJV "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,"
 - a. Christ was born of a woman
 - b. The Jews kept the genealogy from the father, but since Jesus had no human father, Paul says he was born of a woman.
 - c. So Paul recognizes the virgin birth.

CONCLUSION

1. The Virgin Birth of Christ was unique
 - a. It was a miraculous birth, but the birth of Isaac was also miraculous
 - b. But the birth of Jesus was a virgin birth. - there has been no other like it.
 - c. Jesus existed before his mother, in fact he has existed from all eternity.
2. The Virgin Birth of Christ is important because
 - a. It involves the authority of the scriptures
 - i. The Bible says he was virgin born.
 - ii. If he was not then the scriptures are false
 - b. It is related to the Deity of Christ
 - i. Jesus called himself the Son of God. And God called Him Son.
 - ii. If Jesus had an earthly father then he was not what he claimed to be.
 - iii. If he was not virgin born then he is an impostor and cannot be believed
 - c. It relates to his Role of Christ as a Savior
 - i. Matt. 1:21 tells us he will save his people from their sins
 - ii. If he was just an ordinary man, how could he save others?
3. If the Virgin Birth is not true, then Christ is not supernatural.
4. If the doctrine of the Virgin Birth falls, then down goes Christianity !
5. We either accept the virgin birth and all that the New Testament teaches or we reject it [The Virgin Birth] and then throw away the New Testament.
6. The Gospel rests upon the doctrine of the Birth of Christ to a Virgin.
7. I believe the Bible Account of the Virgin Birth of Jesus !
8. Quote about how many believe in the account of the Virgin Birth.

Sources

1. Sermons and Lectures by Goodpasture - P. 73 ff
2. FHC Lectures 1970 - p. 185 - Roy Deaver and p. 324 by Franklin Camp
3. FHC Lectures 1973 - p. 499 The Virgin Birth of Christ by Alan Highers

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening - Dec. 23, 2007

Evans Church of Christ

515 Gibbs Road

Evans, Ga. 30809

706-855-1249

evanscoc@bellsouth.net

www.evansgachurchofchrist.org