

Studying the Birth of Jesus : Lesson #1

Why Jesus had to be Virgin Born (Matthew 1:18-25)

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In this series we are going to look at the passages in the Gospels that deal with the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our goal is to become more familiar with the details concerning the birth of Jesus and also to see some spiritual applications that we can apply to our own lives today. The passages concerning Jesus' birth are loaded with both we will not have time to deal with all of them but we hope to cover enough to give you a better understanding of what happened and also to help you see just how important this birth really was.

In this lesson we are going to deal with the subject of the virgin birth. The virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ is one of the most important facts about his birth and the word of God is very careful to prove that he was virgin born. But the virgin birth is not just important for the sake of the Christmas story it is essential for our Salvation as we will see in this lesson.

Looking first at the passages we can see some definite statements that show us that that Mary was indeed a virgin and that she and Joseph had no physical relationship before Jesus was born.

Matthew 1:18 “before they came together”

- This statement refers to the physical act of flesh joining flesh which in the word of God constitutes marriage (**1 Corinthians 6:15-16**)

Matthew 1:20 “for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost”

- When Mary becomes pregnant Joseph knows there is no way that the baby could be his.
- But God reassures him that Mary has done nothing wrong and tells him that the child she is carrying is of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 1: 23 “behold a virgin shall be with child”

- The prophesy states that she will be a virgin.

Matthew 1:25 “and knew her not until she had brought forth her first born son”

- Here we see that Joseph is said to not know Mary until after Jesus was born.
- In the word of God this is most often a reference to a physical relationship between a man and a woman (**Genesis 4:1,25**).
- This is why in **Luke 1:34** Mary asked the angel how could she have a child seeing that she knew not a man.

Clearly we see that the word of God is very careful show us that Jesus Christ was virgin born.

Why does the word of God call Joseph Mary's husband if they have not came together yet?

In **Matthew 1:13** we see that Joseph is called Mary's husband. Now many people have a problem with this and they say that Mary and Joseph could have been married before Jesus was born or that the word of God is contradicting itself. But this is not the case. It is true that in the word of God marriage takes place when flesh joins flesh (**Gen. 2:24** ; **1 Corinthians 6:15-16**).

But as always when we need an answer to a scriptural problem we will find it by comparing scripture with scripture. In Matthew 1:18 we see that the word of God says that Mary was “espoused” to Joseph. This espousing is speaking of a betrothed. You can be betrothed and still a virgin. Let us look in **Deuteronomy 22:23-30** and this will be made clear. In this passage we see that Old Testament Law concerning adultery, fornication, and rape. Note that in verse 23-24 a damsel can be a virgin and be betrothed unto a man, and that man is called her husband even though they have not come together and consummated the marriage. This is the case with Mary and Joseph, he is called her husband and she is called his wife because they are espoused but they have not consummated the marriage scripture carefully showed above.

Two important reasons for Jesus being virgin born :

- 1) To fulfill the scripture (**Matthew 1:22-23 ; Isaiah 7:14**)
 - The old testament had prophesied that Jesus Christ would be born of a virgin and the word of God cannot lie. Therefore Jesus being born of a virgin fulfilled prophesy.
- 2) He had to be born of a virgin to be able to save mankind from their sin (**Matthew 1:20-21**)
 - The fact that he was virgin born means that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost as we have seen in the scripture. This means that he was literally God Manifest in the flesh and this is shown in **1 Timothy 3:16**.
 - This is called the mystery of Godliness. And it is a great mystery because it is hard for our minds to comprehend how God could allow himself to be born as a baby that needed to be nourished and cared for by a mother. It is really amazing to think that as Jesus grew as a child into a young adult that he was as much God as he was a man.
 - According to Acts 20:28 God purchased the church with his own blood. Now this is very important because it shows us that Jesus had God’s blood in his veins. Remember that this whole birth is a mystery and we do not have to understand everything in detail but just simply believe the word of God. This fact is why the blood of Jesus Christ is able to cover our sins as the word of God states in **1 Peter 1:18-19**.
 - By being born again Jesus Christ does not have the sinful nature that we are born with. Remember that death enter into the world by the sin of Adam and death therefore passed upon all men (**Romans 5:12-15**). Because Jesus was virgin born he was sinless and would not have died except for the fact that when he got on the cross he was made sin for us and bore our sins (**2 Corinthians 5:21 ; 1 Peter 2:22**)
 - The virgin birth and the fact that Jesus Christ never sinned is what allowed him to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins (**Hebrews 9:11-12**).

Therefore the virgin births is one of the greatest things in the scripture in regards to our salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ clearly was born of a virgin and had to be in order to complete the salvation of mankind.

Studying the Birth of Jesus : Lesson #1 Handout
Why Jesus had to be Virgin Born (Matthew 1:18-25)

1) What can we see to help give us proof of Jesus' virgin birth from the passages that speak of his birth?

2) What does the word espoused mean and why is Joseph called Mary's husband if she is still a virgin?

3) What are two of the key reasons for the fact that Jesus Christ must have been virgin born? Give scripture with your answer.