

JANUARY 3

Text: Luke 1:26-56; John 1:14a

Time: early to mid 3 BC

Summary: Jesus' Birth Announced to Mary











Nazareth



THE VIRGIN BIRTH


- You cannot deny the virgin birth and be a Christian
- The virgin birth of Jesus is an essential Christian belief
- Orthodoxy: *orthos* = “straight” and *doxa* = “doctrine”

CLARIFICATIONS


- By virgin birth we mean virgin conception
- “[Joseph] knew her not until she had given birth to a son” (Matt 1:25)
- Jesus was born in the normal fashion

“How can this be,
since I do not
know a man?”
(Luke 1:34 NKJV)






“The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will
overshadow you; therefore the child
to be born will be called holy—the
Son of God” (Luke 1:35)



“When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit”
(Matt 1:18)



“Therefore the Lord himself will
give you a sign. Behold, the virgin
shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel”
(Isa 7:14)



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IMPORTANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

1. It is essential to a proper understanding of the person of Jesus

Jesus is the God-man, truly God and truly man,
two distinct natures in one person



Possibility #1 - God joined his Son with a newly created body?



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The Messiah is the son of David (2 Sam 7:12-16; Isa 11:1; Jer 23:5)

Our High Priest is a descendant of Adam just like us (Heb 2:14-17)



Possibility #2 - God joined his Son with the natural child of Mary and Joseph?



~~Possibility #2 - God joined his Son with the natural child of Mary and Joseph?~~

The Son of God himself is the sacrifice for sin.

The idea that Jesus was two persons, one divine and one human, is called Nestorianism, and it is heresy!

How could the divine Son
of God become flesh?

A virgin conception is the
only answer!



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1. It is essential to a proper understanding of the person of Jesus
2. It is essential to the moral character of Jesus





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- He “committed no sin” (1 Pet 2:22)
- “In him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5)
- He “knew no sin” (2 Cor 5:21)



“None is righteous, no, not one” (Rom 3:10)

“In Adam all die” (1 Cor 15:22a)


Jesus was not in Adam when he sinned, for Jesus is the second Person of the Trinity, uncreated and eternal, and thus he is not affected by Adam's sin





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The corruption of the human nature is caused by a deprivation, that is, a *lack of a right relationship with God*




When the human nature from Mary was added to Jesus, it received from him all that it lacked, and, in him, our human nature was restored to its original state. That is why Jesus is called the “last Adam” (1 Cor 15:45)

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1. It is essential to a proper understanding of the person of Jesus
2. It is essential to the moral character of Jesus
3. It refutes those who say Jesus' birth was illegitimate
4. The truthfulness of Scripture depends on it



Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 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. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil 2:5–8)



“Here is the true spirit of Christmas. Paul tells us that we are to think like Jesus thought. We are to adopt His mindset (Phil 2:5). If so, then Christmas is about denying ourselves, refusing to insist upon the privileges to which we may have a right...” –Kevin Bauder