

# The Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ



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## Introduction

We all know that Jesus Christ was born into this world, being delivered by Mary. However, many folks question the claim that His birth was a virgin birth. That is to say, no human male was involved in His conception. Mary's pregnancy was due to an overshadowing by the Holy Spirit. Listen to what the scripture says.

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privately.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” **Matthew 1:18-23**

## A New Bloodline

The story of Jesus' birth tells us that Jesus came outside of the human DNA strain. His blood was not polluted by sin. It was pure and righteous in every way. He had a Holy bloodline. This made Him the first of a new race. He did not share the human DNA pool.

I know what you are probably thinking. So What! Why does that matter? It matters for these very important reasons:

1. The human DNA pool was full of sin. Had Jesus shared it, He would have been a sinner at birth. **Romans 5:12**
2. The entire Christian Faith rests on the Virgin Birth because it was the only way to produce an eternal spotless Lamb required by God to Atonement for the sins of the world. **John 1:29**
3. The Virgin Birth was the only way to reproduce a 2nd Adam as the scripture teaches. Jesus could not be the last Adam, created sinless, without escaping the human DNA pool. **I Cor. 15:45-47**
4. The prophetic voices of the Old Testament spoke of the virgin birth of the savior. **Isaiah 7:14**
5. Paul's allusion to the virgin birth in his letter to the Galatians. "Made, (Not born) of a woman) **Galatians 4:4**

## The Last Adam

And so it is written, *"The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven."* **I Corinthians 15:45-47**

The Bible clearly teaches that there were only two men that walked the earth...Adam and Jesus. Adam causes his race to fall into sin and be cut off spiritually from God. We all were plunged into depravity and became slaves unto sin. Paul preached this to the 1st century Christian. **Romans 5:12** tells us,

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” However, Jesus did not sin and had no original sin in Him. His obedience restored us. **Verse 19** supports this, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous”

By taking the sin away, Jesus freed us from ever having to serve sin again. We are no more slaves sold under sin.

## **Creation And The Virgin Birth**

### **The Creation Research Foundation**

### **Henry M Morris, Ph D**

Dr. Morris is right on when it comes to the virgin birth of Jesus. His article for The Creation Research Foundation is excellent. Hear it now in part...

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is such an important doctrine of the New Testament that without it there can be no true Christianity. "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God" (**I John 4:2,3**).



But how can the one who "was God" (**John 1:2**) from the beginning be the same one who "was made flesh, and dwelt among us?" (**John 1:1,14**). How can He truly be "Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us?" (**Matthew 1:23**). How can the infinite, eternal God become finite and temporal? Such a concept seems impossibly paradoxical, yet millions quite properly believe it to be a real and vital truth.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of the incarnation is that a God who is absolute holiness could reside in a body of human flesh. Is it not true that "they that are in the flesh cannot please God?" (**Romans 8:8**). Our human bodies have been formed through many generations of genetic inheritance from Adam himself, and "in Adam all die" (**I Corinthians 15:22**).

The paradox is partially resolved, of course, when it is realized that Jesus Christ came in a body which was not of *sinful* flesh. His body was truly "in the flesh," but only "in the *likeness* of sinful flesh" (**Romans 8:3**).

But even this doesn't resolve the dilemma completely, for how could His body be of flesh (carbon, hydrogen, amino acids, proteins, etc.), received by the normal process of reproduction of the flesh of his parents, without also receiving their genetic inheritance, which is exactly what makes it *sinful* flesh? "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (**Psalm 51:5**). "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble ... Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one" (**Job 14:4**).

## The Problem of Inherent Sin

Not only is there the problem of inherent sin, but also of inherent physical defects. Over many generations, the human population has experienced great numbers of genetic mutations, and these defective physical factors have been incorporated into the common genetic pool, affecting in some degree every infant ever born. Yet the Lamb of God, to be an acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world, must be "without blemish and without spot" (**I Peter 1:19**). The very purpose of the incarnation was that God could become the Saviour of men as well as their Creator, but this required that in His humanity He must be "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (**Hebrews 7:26**), and this would have been absolutely impossible by the normal reproductive process.



The solution could only be through a mighty miracle! He could not be conceived in the same manner as other men, for this would inevitably give him both a sin-nature and a physically defective body, and each would disqualify Him as a fit Redeemer. And yet He must truly become human. "Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (**Hebrews 2:17**).

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Christian doctrine of the Virgin Birth of Christ has always been such a watershed between true Christians and either non-Christians or pseudoChristians.<sup>1</sup> Without such a miraculous birth, there could have been no true incarnation and therefore no salvation. The man Jesus would have been a sinner by birth and thus in need of a Saviour Himself.

The birth of Christ was natural and normal in every way, including the full period of human gestation in the womb of Mary. In *all* points, He was made like

His brethren, experiencing every aspect of human life from conception through birth and growth to death. He was true man in every detail, except for sin and its physical effects.

The miracle was not His birth, but His conception. And here we still face a mystery. Conception normally is the result of the union of two germ cells, the egg from the mother and the seed from the father, each carrying half the inheritance and thus each, of course, sharing equally in the transmission of the sin-nature as well as all other aspects of the human nature.

## The Necessity of Special Creation



Therefore, even though He was nurtured in Mary's womb for nine months and born without her ever knowing a man, it was also necessary for all this to have been preceded by supernatural intervention, to prevent His receiving any actual genetic inheritance through her. The body growing in Mary's womb must have been specially created in full perfection, and placed there by the Holy Spirit, in order for it to be free of inherent sin damage. Christ would still be "made of the seed of David according to the flesh" (**Romans 1:3**), because His body was nurtured and born of Mary, who was herself of the seed of David. He would still be the Son of Man, sharing all universal human experience from conception to death, except sin. He is truly "the seed of the woman" (**Genesis 3:15**), His body formed neither of the seed of the man nor the egg of the woman, but grown from a unique Seed planted in the woman's body by God Himself.

That is, God *directly* formed a body for the second Adam just as He had for the first Adam (**Genesis 2:7**). This was nothing less than a miracle of creation, capable of accomplishment only by the Creator Himself. "That holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" (**Luke 1:35**).

Surely God would devote no more attention to the design and construction of the body of "the first man, of the earth, earthy" than He would to that of "the second man, the Lord from heaven" (**I Corinthians 15:47**)!



## The Body of Christ

With such careful divine care and attention given to the development of every one of the billions of human bodies conceived since the days of Adam and Eve, how much greater must have been the extent of the divine preparation of the body of God's own Son! As a matter of fact, the design for His body was prepared before the very foundation of the world itself (**I Peter 1:20; Hebrews 10:5**). It is probable that, in some degree at least, God had this very body in mind when He undertook to make Adam "in our image after our likeness" (**Genesis 1:26**). That is, God formed for Adam a body patterned after that perfect body which had already been planned for the divine incarnation, when the time would come.

Then, "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman that we might receive the adoption of sons" (**Galatians 4:4,5**).



"Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me" (**Hebrews 10:5**). The verb "prepared" in this verse is striking. It is the same word in the Greek (i.e., *katartizo*) as used in the next succeeding chapter in Hebrews, in one of the greatest of all those verses in the Bible describing the Creation. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" (**Hebrews 11:3**).

The "preparation" of Christ's body by God was the same process as the "framing" of the worlds by God! As the latter were created *ex nihilo* ("not out of things which do appear"), so must have been the former. The word is also translated "make perfect" (**Hebrews 13:21, etc.**).

Thus, the body of Christ was prepared by the great Creator, with no dependence on prior materials, and was made in total perfection, ready to receive Him as its occupant. In that perfect body, which would one day be "made sin" and would "bear our sins" on the tree (**II Corinthians 5:21, I Peter 2:24**), He would dwell forever after its resurrection and glorification (**Revelation 1:14-18**).

## The Virgin Birth of Jesus Was Believed Universally By The Earliest Christians

The virgin birth was universally believed by the earliest Christians. This is verified by "The Apostle's Creed," an early confession of faith that dates from the second century and was used throughout the church.

By including the virgin birth in their creedal statement, these early believers made clear that they considered it an essential doctrine of the Faith. The Creed reads in part:

*"I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary"* (emphasis added).

This belief in the virgin birth was confirmed by the Nicene Creed of A.D. 325 and has continued to be the belief of most Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant Christians.

### Most Relevant Bible Verses Concerning The Virgin Birth

**Matthew 1:23**...**"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,"** which translated, means, **"GOD WITH US."**

**Luke 1:27** ...to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

**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.**

**Matthew 1:18-25** ...Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord



appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

**Luke 2:1-7** ... Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.



**John 1:14** ...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**1 John 4:9** ...By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

**Luke 1:34** ...Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

**Genesis 3:15** ...And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

## Conclusion

73% of all Christians in the United States believe that Jesus was born to a virgin, although many do not understand the primary significance of the supernatural event. Skeptics say that the word, "Virgin" means a young girl. The arguments continue within the colleges and churches of our country. However, any true believer that reads the Bible will quickly gain the knowledge and confidence to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.

This supernatural event is the foundation of our faith. Here's why:

1. Without a virgin birth, Jesus would be a sinner and not suitable to be our redeemer.
2. Without a virgin birth, there would be no last Adam that began a new race of Righteousness.
3. Without a virgin birth, the creation of a sinless body for Jesus would not have happened.
4. Without a virgin birth, our faith would be in vein and we would still be lost and dead in our sins.
5. Without the virgin birth, there would be no eternal spotless Lamb to be sacrificed as the penalty for our sins.

Praise be to God who before the foundation of the world established and secured our redemption through the virgin birth of His only begotten Son.

We hold this truth to be self evident and well documented in Biblical antiquity. By this miracle of God's grace we can rest in the fact that God loves us and has made provisions for us to be with Him.

