

STUDY NUMBER TEN - THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST

Luke 2:8-14

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: This study is for new Christians, but every Christian needs to review his/her beliefs about the birth of Jesus Christ. The Bible is very clear in teaching that the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus, was not to have a human father. He was to be born of a virgin. Christians believe that Jesus Christ was indeed born to a virgin named Mary. This is one of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity for Jesus could not have been who He claimed to be, could not have done for mankind what the Bible teaches that he did, were He not the son of a virgin.

I. WHY CHRISTIANS BELIEVE JESUS WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN

1. Biblical prophecy predicted that the Messiah would be born of a virgin.
 - Isaiah 7:14
 - Such a virgin birth was intended as a SIGN.
 - The sign would be given by the Lord, Himself.
 - A non-virgin birth would not be a sign of ANYTHING.
 - "Young girl" is not a satisfactory translation for the verse when considering all the text.
 - This sign provides initial verification of the true identity of the Messiah.
 - The New Testament specifically assigns this prophecy to Jesus.
 - Matthew 1:22-23
 - It is significant that the prophecy calls for a male to be born of the virgin.
 - Genetically speaking, virgin born females are theoretically possible with the "clones" of the mother.
 - Genetically speaking, virgin born males are IMPOSSIBLE.
 - A virgin born male would be a sign of the highest degree, magnitude.
2. Mary is specifically said to have been a virgin until AFTER the birth of Jesus.
 - Matthew 1:18-25
 - Luke 1:26-27, 30-31, 34-35
 - Catholics mistakenly believe that Mary remained a virgin her entire life (Jesus did have brothers and sisters according to texts in the New Testament).
3. Joseph is specifically said to NOT be the one by whom Jesus was conceived. (Was not Jesus' father).
 - Matthew 1:20
 - Luke 1:35-37
4. Various passages in the New Testament indicate that Joseph was NOT the father of Jesus.
 - Matthew 1:16 - Joseph not said to "beget" Jesus.
 - Luke 2:33 - Joseph and his mother
 - Some translations render this verse differently.
 - Luke 2:43 - Joseph and his mother.
 - The Bible distinguishes between Joseph and the term "father."
 - Other translations may translate the word "father" instead of "Joseph."
 - Luke 2:48-50 - Jesus corrects Mary's (His mother) use of the term "father" in reference to Joseph.
 - Luke 3:23 - "being (as supposed) the son of Joseph..."

II. DIFFICULTIES OF JESUS NOT BEING BORN OF A VIRGIN

1. Jesus would be the normal human offspring of a man and a woman.
 - This would transmit to Him the sin nature common to all humans (via His earthly father).
 - 1 Corinthians 15:22 - In Adam all die.
 - Romans 3:23 - All have sinned
 - As a sinner, Jesus' deity would be destroyed.
 - Habakkuk 1:13 - God cannot look on iniquity.
 - Not being sinless, Jesus could not have become the substitutionary sacrifice for mankind's sin.
 - Hebrews 10:10-14
 - 1 Peter 3:18
 - Exodus 12:5-6
 - Numbers 19:2
 - After considering all this and if true, then Christianity would collapse and everyone still be in their sins.

2. Joseph would be Jesus' literal, natural father.
 - Jesus would be forbidden from occupying David's throne due to the judgment placed upon Joseph's ancestor (David).
 - Matthew 1:11 - descendant of Jeconiah
 - Jeremiah 22:28-30 - descendants of Jeconiah were/are prohibited from sitting on David's throne.
 - 1 Chronicles 3:16 - clarifies Coniah as being the same as Jeconiah.
 - The Messiah MUST sit on David's throne.
 - Isaiah 9:6-7
 - Luke 1:31-33
 - The Messiah is the ONE to bear mankind's sin.
 - Isaiah 53:5-6
 - Jesus could not be the Messiah and therefore could not pay for mankind's sin and Christianity would collapse and everyone would still be in their sins.

3. The prophecies fail concerning the Messiah.
 - No other CAN fulfill the prophecies.
 - The appointed time for the Messiah's birth has passed.
 - Daniel 9:25
 - No other can prove his descent from David because all genealogies were destroyed with the temple in A.D. 70.
 - Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - If the prophecies have failed, then the Bible, itself, proves to be unreliable.

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus Christ MUST be and in fact IS the virgin born Son of the living God.
 - The Christian faith rests upon this fundamental doctrine.
2. Pastor, add your own conclusion.