

A Miraculous Birth

Matthew 1:18-25

Introduction

The birth of Jesus is far from being a myth. It is an event deliberately placed in history. The apostle Paul tells the Galatians, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law." (Galatians 4:4 NKJV)

1. God came down in _____ form.
2. Jesus as the Messiah, fulfilled the _____ given in the Old Testament.
3. Jesus provided _____ for the human race.
4. Those who acknowledge Christ's coming and accept Him as our Creator and Savior receive His promise of _____ life.

I. Is This History or Myth?

5. Many say this passage is a _____ or legend rather than an event of history.
6. Many who refuse to believe in God try to group the _____ of Christ in with other myths.
7. Events before the invention of writing systems are considered _____.
8. Biblical history relies upon an _____ account of an actual event.
9. Without the Virgin Birth, the Bible itself is quite _____.
10. Myths purposefully remove history and place events in the distant past where they are _____.

11. The purpose of most myths is entertainment or moral reflection, not _____.
12. The accounts of Jesus' conception and birth are based firmly in history, complete with genealogy, accurate chronological, geographical references, and _____ interviews.
13. _____ doesn't react like a mythical character!
14. Some say that the New Testament _____ the account of Jesus' birth from the pagan/Greek myths.
15. But the Biblical account of the Virgin Birth is vastly different from _____ mythology.
16. The Virgin Birth is actually the second miracle in this event; the first miracle is the _____.
17. Matthew claims that this account is _____, not a myth and that God entered the human race by this unique and supernatural means.

II. God's Purpose

18. God's actions in history are always _____ and for our good.

Matthew tells us two ways Jesus' unique conception furthered God's good plan for us.

19. First, God did it to alert us that Jesus was the promised _____.
20. A virgin birth would obviously be a greater _____ than the miraculous births of previous key players like Isaac, Moses, or Samuel.
21. The second way Jesus' unique conception and virgin birth furthered God's good plan for us was to provide _____ for the whole human race.

22. Joseph is told in 1:21 to name the Child "Jesus" because he will _____ his people from their sins.
23. Our need for salvation is rooted in the _____ of God.
24. God's righteousness and _____ demand death as punishment for all violations of his character.
25. But God is also _____.
26. This doesn't mean that God's love cancels out his righteousness and justice, but because he cares about us so much, he provides a way to pay for our sin and guilt so that he can accept us without compromising his moral _____.
27. The heart of biblical theology is the good news that God's love for us provides _____ as a blameless substitute for us. His death on the Cross pays for our sin and guilt.

III. God's Perfect Provision

28. Animal sacrifices were just _____ of the real solution.
29. The right Substitute:
- would have to be a _____ of the human race.
 - would have to be a _____ human.
 - would also have to be _____.
30. There is only one way that such a Substitute could come into the world:
- To be a member of the human race, he would need to be physically born into it through a human _____.
 - To be God, he couldn't have a human _____, or he would be only human.
 - Since God doesn't have a physical body, this Person can't be _____ in the usual way.

31. The Virgin Birth was necessary, so we could recognize and know that Jesus is the _____ and believe that he could die for the guilt of our sins.

Conclusion

32. The birth of Jesus is God's personal offer to reconnect with Him spiritually for the purpose of eternal _____. It is an offer that requires your personal response.

33. Our sin and guilt before God are spiritually _____. It is so lethal that only the death of his Son, Jesus, can remove it.

God has provided us with plenty of evidence to know that Jesus is his Son and that he is ready and willing to save us. You can know and mentally agree to all this and still die in your sins. Unless you personally entrust yourself to Jesus, the Great Physician, to remove the sins that will destroy your life, he will be of no benefit to you. The final decision is up to you!

ANSWERS

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|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Human | 20. Sign |
| 2. Prophecies | 21. Salvation |
| 3. Salvation | 22. Save |
| 4. Everlasting' | 23. Character |
| 5. Myth | 24. Justice |
| 6. Birth | 25. Love |
| 7. Prehistory | 26. Character |
| 8. Accurate | 27. Jesus |
| 9. Meaningless | 28. Pictures |
| 10. Unverifiable | 29. Member, |
| 11. Information | sinless, God |
| 12. Eye-witness | 30. Mother, |
| 13. Joseph | father, |
| 14. Borrows | conceived |
| 15. Greek | 31. Messiah |
| 16. Incarnation | 32. Fellowship |
| 17. History | 33. Lethal |
| 18. Purposeful | |
| 19. Messiah | |