

The Miracle of Jesus Birth Luke 1:26-31

Introduction

What do you think of miracles? A lot of people are skeptical about miracles. Others delight in them and can't wait to see another one. We all find them intriguing and often mysterious. Here we are once again in the midst of the Christmas season, celebrating the miracle of Christ's birth. It's a season that is a sign to unbelieving generations that have come and gone since the birth of Jesus.

There is no doubt the miraculous surrounded Christ's birth and continued throughout His life, death, and resurrection. The life of Jesus testifies to God's amazing love for humanity.

Christ's birth fulfilled many prophecies:

- The Christ was to descend from the tribe of Judah
 - Genesis 49:10 says, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people." ([Genesis 49:10 NKJV](#))
- That reigning King was born according to Luke 3:33, "the son of Amminadab, *the son* of Ram, *the son* of Hezron, *the son* of Perez, *the son* of Judah" ([Luke 3:33 NKJV](#))
- The Christ was to be the Heir of David's Throne.
 - Isaiah 9:7 says, Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Of the increase of *His* government and peace, *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." ([Isaiah 9:7 NKJV](#))
 - Luke confirms this again when He says, "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ([Luke 1:32-33 NKJV](#))
- Jesus fulfilled the prophecy concerning the time of His birth.
 - Daniel 9:25 "Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times." ([Daniel 9:25 NKJV](#))
 - According to Luke 2, that came to pass in the days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This

census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. (Luke 2:1-2 NKJV)

Luke's Gospel tells us the story in Chapter 1. He writes in verse 26, "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:26-33 NKJV)

Mary is a young woman, probably in her late teens, who is unmarried, a virgin, and engaged to a young man named Joseph. The angel, Gabriel, tells her she will soon become the Messiah's mother. When she asks how this can possibly happen since she is a virgin, Gabriel doesn't really offer her much of an explanation.

He simply says, "God will make it happen." - And so He did!

I. Jesus Was Born of a Virgin

A crucial Christian truth is Jesus is born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 says, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14 NKJV)

Matthew confirms this, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:18 NKJV)

There are at least 40 prophecies that Christ fulfilled throughout His 33½ years on earth concerning the Messiah. Some prophecies were spoken and recorded between 700 and 4,000 years before the birth of Christ by many different prophets. That certainly would qualify as a miracle. The mathematical probability of this occurring is almost impossible, yet it happened.

It's sad to say, but there are some who call themselves Christians who are embarrassed by the doctrine of the virgin birth. They see the Virgin Birth as a myth, a legend, like Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. Some see it as nothing but a fabled story handed down for entertainment and teaching.

Thomas Jefferson said, "The day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus by the Supreme Being as his father, in the womb of a virgin, will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter." Thomas Jefferson, 1823.

The talk show host of the 90s, Larry King, was once asked who he would most want to interview if he could choose anyone from all of history. He said, 'Jesus Christ.' The questioner said, 'And what would you like to ask Him?' King replied, "I would like to ask Him if He was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me."

John MacArthur wrote, "The virgin birth is an underlying assumption of everything the Bible says about Jesus.

To discredit the virgin birth is to reject Christ's deity, the accuracy and authority of scripture, and a host of other related doctrines that are at the heart of the Christian faith. No issue is more important than the virgin birth to our understanding of who Jesus is. If we deny Jesus is God, we reject the very essence of Christianity.

Luke doesn't present Jesus as a myth; he states him as a historical fact! Remember what Luke said in verse 3. "Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed." (Luke 1:1-4 NKJV)

There's no way of getting around it. Luke is telling us that God performed a miracle. Gabriel's point is stated in v. 37, "For with God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37 NKJV)

People who have a problem with miracles usually struggle throughout their faith journey as well. Faith is based upon a belief in the existence of an infinite-personal God. Faith understands that the One who created the natural laws can certainly suspend them if he wants to.

But actually, the virgin birth is only a small part of the supernatural aspect of Jesus' birth. If you can't get your faith around a miraculous conception by a virgin, you'll never believe the next part.

II. Jesus Is God Incarnate

People who have a problem with the Virgin Birth have an even bigger problem with the Incarnation. In verse 32, Jesus is called the "Son of the Most High," and many other passages tell us that Jesus was both human and divine. He was not half-man and half-god like those found in old Greek mythology or the modern sci-fi movies describe; Jesus was fully man and fully God. That is what we call the Incarnation.

There is a point in history when the second person of the Trinity entered the human race without ceasing to be God. Why did God do this? Well, first of all, it was to confirm that Jesus was the Messiah. Verse 32 says, "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Isaiah 7:14 says, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." ([Isaiah 7:14 NKJV](#))

The Messiah would be both human and divine. Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." ([Isaiah 9:6 NKJV](#))

That is what Gabriel reminds Mary of in verse 32. The Old Testament prophets foretold his human ancestry, his birthplace, where he would grow up, details of his public ministry, when he would come, how he would be rejected, and how he would die and be resurrected. It's what separates the Bible from all other writings and teachings. The Bible provides objective, verifiable evidence for every honest seeker.

The odds that someone could fulfill all of the Bible's predictions by accident are astronomical and mathematically impossible. The Bible is not a leap of faith or a blind faith; it is a reasonable faith.

One theologian wrote, "The incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central fact of Christianity. Upon it, the whole superstructure of Christian theology depends." Dr. Walvoord. The whole essence of Christianity rests on the fact that Jesus is God in human flesh, something made clear at the very birth of Christ.

The virgin birth is an essential doctrine. If Jesus was born of a human father, then the Bible is untrustworthy because the Bible claims He didn't have one. His virgin birth, His substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, and His Second Coming are all part of the package of deity.

You cannot isolate those truths. Those are the cardinal doctrines of scripture. Those are the truths of authentic Christian believers. Christians believe all of those realities are the manifestation of His deity and are inseparably interrelated.

We must face the same question Jesus posed to the Pharisees: Whose Son is He? The son of David in humanity, or the Son of God in deity. The answer is He is both! Both of these are essential to understanding the incarnation. Jesus was God in a human body. Humanly, through the lineage of David, He gains the right to rule the world, and as deity, He has the right to rule the universe.

Matthew, in writing his Gospel, squarely faces his Jewish readers and readers of every age, as he gives them the answer in chapter 1. The genealogy of Jesus tells us that Jesus is David's son, and the birth of Jesus tells us that He is God's Son.

If the genealogy of Jesus were all that could be said about His identity, then Christ would have the legal right to be King, but He could have never redeemed us. He could have never conquered death, sin, or Satan. To accomplish that, He had to be God.

III. Jesus is the Miracle of Salvation

Which brings us to the third miracle of Christ's birth: Jesus came to provide the miracle of Salvation. The Virgin Birth and the Incarnation are absolutely necessary for Jesus to really be our Savior.

The name Jesus or Joshua means "YHWH's Salvation." God is holy and righteous? God cannot neglect or violate his character. And yet God still loves sinful people. And since God loves us, even though we are sinners, He chooses to provide a blameless substitute to pay the penalty for our sinfulness. But, because God is loving, he chooses to provide a blameless substitute to pay the penalty for our sinfulness.

Hebrews 2:17 says, "For this reason, he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people."

Only a human being could take the place of another human being. Which means that the Messiah would have to be a sinless human. But the Messiah would also have to be God so that his death would have infinite value. 1 Timothy 4:10 says, "For to this *end* we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those who believe." (1 Timothy 4:10 NKJV)

If Jesus were only a sinless man, he could only die for one other human being. But because he is also God, his death has infinite value and can pay for all the sins of every person at one time. That is why one parent had to be human and the other Divine. So, God supernaturally conceived Jesus in a human mother's womb.

For the past 2000 years, the whole idea of a virgin birth has seemed pretty impossible. But ever since *in vitro* fertilization and embryonic transfer came on the scene in 1978 (not to mention artificial insemination), it is quite possible for a woman who has never experienced sexual intercourse to give birth. And now the possibility exists that we can even produce a race of superhumans through genetically altered DNA.

Of course, the Bible makes it clear that it was Almighty God, not some high-paid gynecologist or scientific engineer, who worked the details of Jesus' Divine-Human conception.

In Luke 1:35, "The angel said to Mary, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*" (Luke 1:35 NKJV)

It sounds rather miraculous, doesn't it? Yet in these days, with the advancement in medical science and genetics, who could deny that sort of miracle could occur? So, how difficult, really, is a miracle like this for the God who created the entire universe?

Conclusion

So in Verse 38, Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1:38 NKJV)

Mary submits herself to God. That is precisely what God wants from all of us: not ability but availability. God wants to know if we're willing to actively place ourselves into his hands.

He wants us to come before him and present ourselves to him. That is one of the reasons we come to worship each week. He doesn't force us to change, but you can't help but want to change when you come in contact with the living Christ. That is the gospel message. It is the message of good news.

God isn't asking you to save yourself any more than he asked Mary to have a baby as a virgin by herself. He isn't looking at you to see if you're good enough. God wants to know, "Are you willing to trust your life, all of your life to Him? Are you willing to accept God's salvation miracle in Jesus Christ as sufficient to pay for your sins and give you eternal life?"

God only asks that we be like Mary and say, "OK, I'm willing, but You'll have to do the miracle!" Which is what He does. And if you accept Jesus as that Miracle of Salvation, it will change your whole life. You cannot earn it. You cannot buy it. You cannot do it yourself. But you can believe it and receive it just like Mary did when she heard the good news from God's angel that day.