

The Virgin Birth

The ancient Apostles' creed lifts up one of the most critical aspects of Christianity. Jesus was conceived by the holy spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

Jesus being born of the virgin Mary at Christmas in Bethlehem is more than a nice story. It is a critical aspect of our faith as Christians, and deeply foundational to accomplishing the eternal purposes of God.

Sometimes we can get confused, like children who are struggling with all kinds of faith issues. The virgin birth is not so simple, but it is not so complicated either.

A ten-year-old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then one day she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

Of course, we must get to the right question before we consider the virgin birth. The real question is what part does it play in God's plan to save the world? Why did God do this?

The key to understanding what God did with Mary two thousand and some years ago is to realize that this is how God chose to connect with the world in a lasting and result-oriented way. The virgin birth tells us more about God than it does Mary.

God decided to enter the world through what theologians have come to call the incarnation. God chose to act through the holy spirit to come into the earth in a physical form. That physical form was Jesus.

In a very real way, this is a union between humanity and heaven, a way to save people from their sins and to bring us together with God. Jesus was and is the only way to accomplish this.

The angel Gabriel tells that she is to have a child in a one of a kind way, with no other human contact, and the rest is history. Let's look at how scripture describes the virgin birth.

In response to Mary's question, "How will this be?" ([Luke 1:34](#)), Gabriel says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you" ([Luke 1:35](#)).

The angel encourages Joseph to not fear marrying Mary with these words: "What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit" ([Matthew 1:20](#)).

Matthew states that the virgin “was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:18). Galatians 4:4 also teaches the Virgin Birth: “God sent His Son, born of a woman.”

So, if we believe the Bible, and as Christians it is our highest authority, Jesus born of a virgin. Legally his father was Joseph. Technically, his father is God almighty, who sent Jesus to earth to be born of the virgin Mary.

The virgin birth is a miracle, plain and simple. It is the first of many miracles which had to do with Jesus. This supernatural action of God from heaven put in place the miracle of eternal life, and we must give thanks for it every day.

We must begin with the virgin birth to even begin to appreciate the lengths to which our loving Father God has gone because he loves us and wants to walk with us.

“The virgin birth is posted on guard at the door of the mystery of Christmas; and none of us must think of hurrying past it. It stands on the threshold of the New Testament, blatantly supernatural, defying our rationalism, informing us that all that follows belongs to the same order as itself and that if we find it offensive there is no point in proceeding further.” ~*The Person of Christ*, Donald Macleod

Perhaps the easiest way of seeing what the virgin birth does is to look a little further to John’s gospel, where he states, ““The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.”

Now we see Mary as simply a part of God’s plan to save the world. She, as an ordinary human being, admittedly with a royal lineage which went back to Solomon, David, and even Adam and Eve, was Jesus earthly mother as he prepared for his role as Christ and Messiah. Some have tried to make Mary divine, but she, like all of us, are chosen by God to bring others close to him.

Jesus came to earth in a miraculous, one of a kind event. It never happened before, and has never happened since. But because of that incarnation, because of that stepping out of eternal heaven in to temporal earth, God’s entrance was accomplished once and for all, and he has never left.

Some try to dispel the notion of the virgin birth. Why? It makes them feel bigger. But it only makes them smaller.

To try to explain away the miracles of God only makes one smaller. We believe, because God is. We are saved, by what God does. And it’s always miraculous!