

If Jesus has been begotten by natural man, then it stands to reason that the following things are true.

✓ a. he is not God. It reduces him to the level of natural man.

✓ b. He is not a member of the Trinity. And therefore, we are open to unitarianism.

✓ c. There is no atonement because the cross does not have power and Jesus as a natural man was merely dying for his own sin.

✓ d. There is no resurrection. A natural man could not have come forth from the grave for God alone has power to raise the dead. It means that he is still in the grave. It means that if Christ did not rise, we are yet in our sins. It makes a great deal of difference what we think of this great truth. For, if we reject it, we reject the inspiration of the Bible, the atonement, and every other miracle in the Bible.

To me, the (resurrection is a great a miracle as the virgin birth.) And, if we are going to reject one, we will have to reject all.

3. Old Testament Prophecy predicted it.

In the study of the virgin birth, we turn to Gen. 3:15. And, here we read that God declares that by the seed of the woman, he excluded the seed of the male, and this makes the prophecy wholly clear. When it is understood that even in the first book of ~~the~~ the Bible that Jesus was to come forth through the seed of the woman.

Isaiah 7:14 prophecies the birth of Jesus by a virgin. *New Bible to -*

4. The New Testament Witnessed it.

Matt. 1 gives the line of Joseph traced from Abraham, 42 generations in all. It is asked why, if Joseph not the father, is his name given in this account in Matt. Because, the Messiah must have the right to the throne of David. And the woman has no right to the throne. And, you will observe that from Abraham, it says, and so and so begat so and so, the usual expression to natural birth. But, when it comes to Jesus, it changes form, and it says, and Jacob beget Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus. v. 16-17

Abraham begat Isaac, Isaac begat Jacob, Jacob begat David. But the birth of Jesus was on this wise, it was different from all the others. It was not normal.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Introd.

As we consider this historic fact, the first doubter was the virgin mother to be, herself. When the angel came and told her, it amazed her with wonder. How could it be? And then it was explained that the holy ghost would come upon her and overshadow her, and then she proceeded to tell Eliz., her cousin about this incident. There are two points that we would like to emphasize this morning. First of all, what unbelievers say and second, what believers say.

I. WHAT UNBELIEVERS SAY

There are some who raise objections to the virgin birth. And, some who have posed as great leaders in Christianity. For ex., the statement of Fosdick, I am not deeply concerned whether you believe the virgin birth as a historic fact or not. Although, as you know, I cannot believe it. But, I am concerned that no one should tie up in one bundle the virgin birth and the divinity of Christ. And of course, we know that the deity and the virgin birth of Jesus can't be separated. Some of the most frequently heard objections are listed here:

1. only two gospels record the virgin birth

There are those who say that Matt. and Luke manufactured these stories as from Mythology. In saying that Jesus was born as one of the Gods or as the birth of Plato who claimed to have been born of a virgin. That they invented their account of the virgin birth in order to conform to the O.T. prophecy. They claimed that this was too personal a matter for Matt. and Mark to know anything about. And yet, they did not have any closer contact with the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. They were writing under the influence of the holy spirit.

There are others who say that the virgin birth acc't was added to Matt. and Luke at a later date and did not appear in the original manuscript.

They discount Matt. and Luke's report because it is not included in the other accounts by Mark or John.

Some say that this extraordinary thing was copied from the old Testament because they admired Jesus as a man. It is suggested that they took the account out of Isaiah and because they adored Jesus as a great personality they said that his birth was supernatural, even as the birth of Caesar Augustus.

His birth was supposed to have followed a visit of his mother to the temple of Apollo, by a serpent and the fruit of that union being Ceasar. Indeed, this is a great mystery, even the creation of a man is a mystery. As Job was reminded, Where was thou when I ladd the foundation of the earth?

2. Does not appear on the genealogical tables.

Because in the book of Matt. and Luke, the direct account of Jesus' birth is not carried, there are those who would discredit. We find that they trace the line of Joseph rather than the line of Mary. There is indeed much that is difficult and obscure in those tables and there are those who say that because it traces Joseph, that he is the natural father of Jesus. However, a close study will reveal that the names listed are careful not to say that Joseph was the father of Jesus, but he says, Jacob beget Joseph, the husband of Mary.

3. The gospels speak of Jesus as the son of Joseph

There are those who would confuse the issue by saying that in the gospels, Jesus is referred to as the carpenter's son and that he was rebuked for having been in the temple. But, we understand these accounts to merely portray Joseph as his legal protector. That Joseph is responsible and therefore, the same gospels that give this account also speak of the supernatural birth of Jesus.

4. The virgin birth not mentioned by Paul

Because Paul in his writings does not mention the virgin birth, there are those who have doubts about it. It is true that Paul does not say a great deal about the birth of Jesus or any part of his public life. The imp't part to Paul was the resurrection and the crucifixion of Jesus. On the other hand, Paul refers to the incarnation of Christ. He speaks of, when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman.

II. WHAT BELIEVERS SAY

1. There can be no peace if this essential is denied

The early church from the beginning believed in the virgin birth. It was been incorporated in the great Christian creeds.

It was been attacked by saying that it is not necessary. But, we remember that Christianity was born in conflict. And, if these things do not matter at all, what is the use? It is impossible to have peace and deny the great truths. The man who denies the virgin birth will soon deny the atonement and the resurrection. As someone has stated, with the denial of the virgin birth is apt to go the denial of the virgin life. People will be quick to say that Jesus was not sinless. And, when we discard and throw aside such a great truth, it is to our own loss. I read of (Charles Spurgeon) who presented a parable once to his people, "Yonder galloping over the plains of Russia there is a sleigh drawn by six or eight white horses. A pack of hungry wolves are in pursuit of the driver and his wife. The driver lashes his horses and endeavors to get away but he sees the wolves are gaining on him. Their cries come nearer. His only salvation is to cut loose two of the horses and leave them for the wolves. He takes off the first team, and presently they hear the pack of hungry wolves feeding on the two horses. When they have gorged themselves, they hear the wolves in full cry again. Once more they are being outchased and decide to cut off a nother two horses, and turn back two more. Presently the wolves gain on them again and they cut off the third team, leaving only two horses harnessed to the sleigh. The driver urges the horses on. But, their sacrifices have been in vain for presently the cry is heard again. What shall they do, says spurgeon? They have only two horses left? What shall the driver do? Why, man do the only thing now possible, throw, cut his wife, of course. "What are we to do? Give up the inspiration of the scriptures, the virgin birth, the deity of Christ, the doctrine of the resurrection? Shall we give it up and throw it all to the wolves? It is not a case of objection to this doctrine or this miracle? But, it is an objection to all miracles. A popular preacher said, the virgin birth involves a biological miracle which is unthinkable to the modern mind. We would agree but would substitute one word, instead of modern mind, we would substitute, carnal mind.

2. All Christian doctrine falls or stands with the Virgin Birth.

Her child was of the Holy Ghost. The lord appeared unto her, v. 21, and in v. 25.

(Luke's) record of the birth of the Saviour, gives 2 chapters in detail of Mary's condition. L:27, 35, 34. Mary paid a visit to Zachariah and Eliz., 1:43, and she spent three months there in their home with this priest and had there been anything out of line, the priest would have been faithful to the Mosaic law. Deut. 22:23.

There were other noteworthy testimonies to the birth of Jesus, Matt 2:2, Luke 2:8, by the shepherds.

Therefore, we conclude that the virgin birth makes a big difference as to one's religion .

And we also, conclude that it was absolutely necessary. That if he had been born of natural man, then he would not have been Saviour. But, in order to be the Son of God, the Saviour, he must take on the form of man. And he could not be born the natural way and therefore he came by the seed of woman. And, his deity is insured, that he was the perfect God. God cannot be born, because God is. He was sinless, and as Luke says, 1:37, For with God shall nothing be impossible. So the virgin birth means that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners and this took place when the fulness of time had been accomplished. Suppose there had been no difference between Jesus and any other man. We would say that he could not qualify as Saviour. And if we say that we do not believe in the Virgin Birth, then we do not believe in the Christ of the gospels. And, perhaps, though, we can't fathom all of this mystery, we should bow and adore rather than debate. Let us even now go unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass. Come with the shepherds, let come with the wise men. Let the star guide you. In order that we might make room in our hearts for this Christ.

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During the gold-rush in San Francisco, A Meth. Miss. Willam Taylor, discovered there was no church for him to preach in and no congregation very much interested in listening to him. But on the streets of the city there were people from all over the world, and that was enough for him. Standing on a barrel at a busy corner on Sunday morning he would gather his crowd about him with a mighty shout, "What's the news?" then when they would gather to hear this strange fellow and what he had to say, he would begin his preaching with these words, "Thank God, I have ~~good~~ good news for you this morning, my brothers."

It is in this same mood we as preachers of the Gospel should stand next Lord's Day in our pulpits--We have good news to proclaim..... *Luke 2:10 - Good tidings of Great Joy*

The message we have is tied up in one fundamental truth--The Birth of our Lord.....

VIRGIN BIRTH-----

Because He was more than man he has influenced us as Dr. Angel tells-----Business man told him, I had parked my new car in the st. & when I returned I saw a little boy walking around it studying it intently, When I put the key in the door he called it that your car. I told him sure, How much did it cost sonny I don't know what it cost, well mister you don't look like a man that would steal a car. My Bro. gave it to me-he gave it, and it didn't cost you a thing?.. He studied for a min. (I thought he was going to wish that he had a Bro. like that..when he finished that sentence he jarred me to the soles of my feet, I wish I could be a Bro. like that.. When I got my balance I ask him if he wanted to ride, my clothes are dirty, might ruin your car.. we had been riding a few min.. mister would you mind stopping by my house... as we stopped he bounded up the steps and came back carrying his little bro.. infantile parasites..tenderly placed him on bottom steps, pointed to car, his Bro gave it to him there she is buddy, one day I'm going to give you one just like it and you can see all the Christmas windows for yourself.. You can guess, Buddy you are going to see them all today, put him in the car we went to the biggest dept. stores, and the happiest Xmas of my life followed as I let my new friend and his buddy make their own selection of toys..

(Don't miss Xmas) Ship approached international date line on Xmas eve...Capt. announced as we cross we will miss Xmas day entirely.... What an awful possibility-- Good news

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