

THE PURPOSE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

1. During a time of great conflict concerning Israel, God is telling the prophet Isaiah that a messiah will be born in a very supernatural way.

Isaiah 7:14 (NLT) All right then, the Lord himself will choose the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel—'God is with us.'

2. It is universally known that Jesus was born of a virgin birth. But, did you ever wonder why God chose a virgin birth to have Jesus come into the world?

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

3. Again we are reminded of the prophecy and we are given His name, Emmanuel, meaning "*God is with us.*"

Luke 1:26 (NLT) In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee,

4. John the Baptist is six months older than Jesus and he is also Jesus first cousin.

Luke 1:27-33 (NLT) to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. [28] Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" [29] Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. [30] "Don't be frightened, Mary," the angel told her, "for God has decided to bless you! [31] You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. [32] He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. [33] And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

5. So God chose Mary by calling on her to bring forth the Messiah.

Luke 1:34 (NLT) Mary asked the angel, "But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin."

6. This is not unbelief, but she is simply asking for some understanding.

Luke 1:35 (NLT) The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."

7. So we see that God the Father chose Mary, but it was the presence and work of the Holy Spirit that made it happen.

a. but why did it have to be a virgin birth

b. why couldn't Jesus just show up like He did in the Old testament

c. why did it have to be Jesus, why couldn't some else represent us on the cross

Leviticus 1:3let him offer a male without blemish

8. In the Old Testament, the lamb offered as a sacrifice had to be without blemish.

a. the shepherd had to examine his flock for over a year and find one lamb without blemish

b. once he found one without blemish, he had to watch over it to make sure there was no blemish made before it could be offered up as the one sacrificial lamb

c. this time frame symbolizes the three and a half years that Jesus had His ministry on earth

d. He was watched and scrutinized for 3 ½ years by the religious leaders but they could find no fault, blemish in Him

9. The problem is: we all have a blemish.

a. a blemish is a small flaw that spoils the appearance

b. what is that blemish

Romans 5:12 **Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

10. That blemish is sin. Actually, our sin nature.

11. Sin nature is your flesh wanting to do things contrary to what God's Word says to do or not do.

a. they are called works of the flesh, appetites, lust, cravings, addictions or selfish desires

Romans 5:12 (NLT) **When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.**

Romans 5:12 (MSG) **12 You know the story of how Adam landed us in the dilemma we're in—first sin, then death, and no one exempt from either sin or death.**

12. Not one person is without sin.

a. that's why God wants to change our image back to looking like Jesus, without sin

13. When children are born on this earth today, they automatically have a blemish against them — the sin nature of the flesh.

a. when a person gets born again, the sin nature is still there because the curse entered into man from the outside in, but redemption begins from the inside out

b. one day, this mortal shall put on immortality, this corruptible shall put on incorruption.

c. but for right now, the whole earth is waiting for that day when the curse is lifted, but until that time, man has a blemish — the sin nature

d. that means I am not a sinner anymore, but I still have a sin nature, a tendency to want to sin, or I choose to sin if it appeals to me enough

e. let me challenge your thinking

14. When a woman give birth to a child, the woman gives birth a body composed of the mother and fathers features.

a. the parents provide the flesh and the blood

a. but God provides the spirit

b. we cannot reproduce and create a spirit, God puts the spirit in the baby

15. You can't put a spirit in a person; only God can.

a. we really do not pass on life; we pass on flesh and blood

b. God gives us life by providing the spirit of a person

16. When a child is born, that child carries in it's body of the curse of Adam, because it is carried down through the bloodline, but the spirit was given by God and so that child is born spiritually alive. Innocent.

a. but when that child eventually sins because it is the flesh's tendency to want to sin, (given by the parents who provided the flesh and the corrupted bloodline) they become spiritually dead and are in need of a Savior to have them become born again

b. meaning this time they are born of the spirit, not of flesh and blood

17. There is a difference between being spiritually alive when a child is born and the actual new birth (the time you accept Jesus as your Lord and savior).

a. at the time of the new birth, the Holy Ghost comes to live in you and makes you in the very image of God, now you take on His heavenly characteristics

b. but when a child is born on this earth, they are alive unto God

18. That is why Jesus said.....

(Matthew 18:3) "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of God." He continued, "Except you become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of God."

19. Until a child reaches the age of accountability, they are alive unto God.

- a. once that child begins to get knowledge of the Lord Jesus, they reach the age of accountability
- b. if they refuse to accept Jesus as their Savior, they opens the doorway for spiritual death to enter in

1 Cor. 15:21-22 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. [22] For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

20. The man that brought death was Adam. That death sentence is passed on through our bloodline from fallen Adam.

1 Cor. 15:21-22 (NLT) So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, Adam, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man, Christ. [22] Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam, the first man. But all who are related to Christ, the other man, will be given new life.

21. Who got us into this mess? Adam did. Who got us out of this mess? Jesus did.

22. But, who was the first one to sin in the Garden of Eden? Adam or Eve? Eve did.

1 Tim. 2:13-14 For Adam was first formed, then Eve. [14] And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

23. Then how come it doesn't put the blame on Eve if she's the one who got us into this mess?

24. Eve was deceived but Adam walked into the sin with his eyes wide open.

- a. he knew exactly what he was doing
- b. God had given Adam specific instructions not to eat of that tree
- c. Adam took the fruit of his own will

25. So why the Virgin Birth?

26. There is no way that God, as Deity, could ever die.....he is eternal Life!
- a. how can eternal life die
 - b. for eternal life to die, God would have to change; but He can't change because He's immutable (unchanging)
 - a. if He did change, He would be a liar because He said He changes not
27. How can omnipresence (being everywhere) reduce itself to one spot and die?
- a. death is contrary to the very nature of God, who is Author of Life
 - b. so God had to become humanity to die
28. The work of the cross had to be our substitution, and God can't substitute for man.
- a. we needed someone to go to the cross that would take our place — spirit, soul, and body to remove our blemish
 - b. God came into this earth one day in the form of Jesus, and He went to the cross so we can have eternal salvation
29. The only way to be born into this earth without blemish, without the sin nature, is to be born of a virgin.
- a. Jesus came into this earth through the virgin birth
30. Mary was no different than any other woman around her, except for the fact she lived for the God.
- a. her physical body was no holier than any other woman's body
 - b. even though she had the sin nature in her as do we all, she had chosen to live for God
 - c. that caught God's attention and he chose to bless her

31. Since Jesus, even in His physical body, was produced by God the Father, He was free from the curse that came upon us through Adam..

a. that made Him a male without blemish as required by the Law

b. He was born without blemish to redeem all mankind from the curse of the law

32. So did Jesus received the nature of the flesh? He could have if He chose to.

Hebrews 4:15 **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

33. Jesus was tempted in all points like we are, yet He chose not to receive sin.

Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) **This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin.**

34. When Jesus went to the cross, He voluntarily took on the sins of the world, conquering sin at the root.

a. so when we are born again, we have power over the flesh, power over the nature of sin

35. Jesus came into this earth, born free from the curse, without the nature of the flesh, the Lamb without blemish.

a. that doesn't mean he wasn't tempted

b, he just chose to say "No" to temptation

36. Here is His motive for you and I, the church.....

Ephes. 5:27 **That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

37. God examined Him for thirty-three years. The scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees examined Him for 3 ½ years.

a. He was without blemish, flawless

38. Then Jesus went to the cross where all our sins were poured out on Him, the spotless Lamb of God, who redeemed us back to God!

a. Jesus removed the blemish so we could have eternal relationship with the Father

Hebrews 10:19-20 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, [20] By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

39. Our fleshly nature had to be torn so we could be restored because of Adam's mess.

40. So you see, the virgin birth provided a vessel for God to take on humanity, and become the legal substitute we needed to get us back to God.

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