

Text: Luke 1:26-35

I. The virgin birth defined:

- A. The Son of God entered human existence through a miraculous conception in Mary's womb; and Mary remained a virgin until after Jesus was born.
 - 1. So this was a virgin *conception* and a virgin *birth*.
 - 2. Jesus was not conceived as a result of a sexual relationship of any kind
 - a. Mary had never had sexual relations with anyone when she conceived Jesus.
 - b. Mormons teach that a "resurrected Adam" had sexual relations with Mary to conceive Jesus
 - 3. The Son of God entering human existence called "The Incarnation" **He was fully God & fully man**

II. The virgin birth declared:

A. Old Testament:

- 1. **Only clear mention:** Isa 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.
- 2. **Suggested in Gen:** (*1st promise of messiah*) Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee & the woman, & between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, & thou shalt bruise his heel.

B. New Testament (*Passage we started with*) Luke 1:26-35

- 1. Luke 1:27 To a **virgin** espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the **virgin's** name was Mary.
- 2. Luke 1:34-35 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (*i.e. since I have never had sexual relations with a man*).³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

C. New Testament Matt 1:18-25

- 1. Matt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
- 2. Matt 1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.
 - a. Matt 1:23-24 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 24 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.
 - (1) Virgin = (Gr) a marriageable woman who has never had sexual intercourse; a virgin.
- 3. Matt 1:25 ...knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: & he called his name JESUS.
 - a. Know = a Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman.
 - b. This makes it abundantly clear that Joseph and Mary did not come together until after the birth of Jesus and that He was born of a virgin.

III. The virgin birth denied denies the reality of God veracity of scripture deity of Christ purity of Messiah

A. **Some say the virgin birth is impossible:**

Message 4: The Virgin Birth of Christ

1. **To deny the virgin birth** (*on this basis*), **is to deny the reality of God** (His existence)
 - a. If God can't work every miracle, then He can't work any miracle
 - b. If God cannot work the miracle of the virgin birth, then He is not God!
 - (1) Mary asked How shall this be, seeing I am a virgin (know not a man)? Lk 1:34
 - (2) The angel told her how: (*It would be a miracle of God*).
 - (a) Lk 1:35...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, & the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee
 - (b) Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.
 - (3) She believed
 - (a) Luke 1:38 Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word
 - (b) Luke 1:45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.
 - c. **The God I serve is all powerful.**
 - (1) Jer 32:17 Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:
 - (a) How did God spin the worlds into existence with His words??
 - (2) Gen 18:14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD?
2. **To deny the virgin birth is to deny the veracity of scripture**
3. **To deny the virgin birth is to deny the deity of Christ** (*And thereby deny Christ*)
 - a. Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: **therefore** also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.
 - (1) If this was not a virgin birth Jesus is not God.
 - (a) The Mormons believe He was a man who "became God". (*So Mormons do not believe in the deity of Christ and this is therefore NOT a Christian organization*).
 - (b) Joel Osteen, pastor of the largest church in America (over 40,000) says Mormons are Christians.
 - i. When asked by Chris Wallace of Fox "is a Mormon a true Christian" he responds, "In my mind they are" *later in the interview*... "I haven't really studied, or thought about (the theological issues) I just try to let God be the judge"
 - ii. Interview with Wolfe Blitzer CNN: *Wolfe* according to a "pew poll, 32% (of Christians) say they don't believe the Mormon faith is a Christian religion, ...what I hear you saying is, you do believe it's a Christian religion, sort of", *Osteen* "well I do"... later concerning Mormons *Osteen* said "I see them as brothers in Christ".
 - iii. On diff note: Interview with Larry King: *Osteen* couldn't answer if you must accept Jesus to go to heaven, and strongly implied that Hindus go to heaven because: He's been to India with his father and those people QUOTE "love God".
4. **To deny the virgin birth is to deny the purity of Messiah** (*And thereby deny Christ*)
 - a. If Jesus was born of a union of a man and a woman, he would have inherited a sin nature
 - b. If Jesus had a sin nature, He Himself was a sinner and could not bear the sins of humanity.

Message 4: The Virgin Birth of Christ

(1) This then has great implications on the atonement.

(a) The atonement: the reconciliation of man to God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

(b) 1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

(c) If He was not sinless, he could not have died for our sins & we r all lost without hope

c. 1 Pet 2:22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

d. 1 Jn 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

e. Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

IV. May we all be like Mary who in simple, child-like faith embraced the angel's explanation & believed God.

Extra notes, not used in the message, regarding Mary and Catholicism

V. Mary did not remain a virgin after Jesus was born.

➤ *Note: Catholics teach the Deity, eternal pre-existence and virgin birth of Christ; however, they add a heresy to the virgin birth, the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary.*

○ *They also deify Mary by belief in the "immaculate conception" as well as the belief in prayer through Mary as a means of getting Jesus attention and moving Him to action.*

▪ 1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, & one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

A. **Joseph was intimate with his wife** after Jesus was born.

Matt 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. *(This tells us he "knew" her after Jesus was born).*

B. **Jesus had brothers.**

1. Matt 12:47-50 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

2. John 2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, he, and his mother, and his brethren, and his disciples: and they continued there not many days.

a. The Greek word translated "brethren" means one of four things according to Greek lexicons:

(1) A full or half brother.

(2) A person with a common ancestor (i.e. a relative).

(3) A fellow country man.

(4) A fellow believer.

b. However every time this word is used in scripture (*with no exceptions*) it refers to either:

(1) An actual brother.

(2) Or a fellow believer.

c. In scripture, when a relative other than brother or sister is referred to, a different Greek word (*suggenes*) is used. (*Translated kinsmen, kinsfolk or cousin in the KJV*).

Message 4: The Virgin Birth of Christ

- (1) Luke 14:12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; ...
- (2) Luke 21:16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.
- (3) Luke 1:36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

3. “Brethren”, as used relating to Jesus, is certainly **not** referring to a fellow believer:
John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

C. **Jesus also had sisters.**

1. Matt 13:55-56 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?
 - a. The Greek word translated sister means:
 - (1) A full sister or...
 - (2) A fellow believer (*This passage was certainly not referring to fellow believers, but siblings*)

- Conclusion: When the Bible refers to brethren and sisters of Jesus, it is telling us that He had half brothers and sisters. Therefore we know that Mary did not remain a virgin after the birth of Jesus.

VI. Three false doctrines taught by the Roman Catholic Church, concerning Mary, which leads to the deification of Mary:

A. The **perpetual virginity** of Mary:

1. This is the belief that Mary always remained a virgin.
2. We have disproved that in the above message.

B. The **Immaculate Conception** of Mary:

1. This is the belief that Mary was born without original sin (*i.e. the sin nature*):
 - a. There is no scripture to back this absurd assumption.
 - b. There is no historical record that the early Church had this understanding.
 - c. This defies the Word of God
 - (1) Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (*The only Biblical exception to this is Christ because of the virgin birth*). We will talk of Christ sinless life and nature later.
 - d. If this were true than Mary would be something beyond human.

C. Prayer to Jesus **through Mary**:

1. This is a form of **idolatry**. (*Exod 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me*).
 - a. Mary is believed by Catholics to have redemptive powers. (*For example the Hail Mary*)
 - (1) The Bible teaches that the only approach to the Father is through faith in Christ.
 - (a) John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 - (b) Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Message 4: The Virgin Birth of Christ

- b. This Mary worship actually dates back to a “queen of heaven” that idolaters worshipped long before Christ.
 - c. Unfortunately, many Muslims think that the Christian’s Trinity is The Heavenly Father, the heavenly mother and the Son!
 - d. Mary has no special place in heaven; she cannot hear, answer, nor relay anyone’s request.
 - (1) Deut 18:11-12 ...or a **necromancer** (*one who makes request of a dead person*). 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...
2. Scripture declares that there is only one means to approach God.
 - a. 1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, & one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
 - b. John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
 3. There is no commandment to pray to, or through, Mary found anywhere in scripture.
 - a. Elisabeth’s prophetic blessing of Mary is **not** a prayer to Mary (Lk 1:42).
 - (1) We do know from this prophetic blessing, as well as Gabriel’s salutation that Mary was a holy and Godly young woman as required under the Law.
 - (2) However, At some time she needed to trust the resurrected Christ as her Savior.
 - (3) Scripture shows that she needed to be baptised in the Holy Spirit along with all the early believers. (Acts 2:14).
 4. Scripture nowhere shows an example of anyone making request in prayer to or through Mary.
 5. We are commanded to pray **in Jesus name**.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.