

Sunday Celebration (December 20, 2009) **"The Virgin Birth is BIG Theology"**

INTROChildren's Stories and BIG THEOLOGY

The Virgin Birth of the Babe in a Manger

"When we speak of the humanity of Christ it is appropriate to begin with the consideration of the virgin birth of Christ. Scripture clearly asserts that Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother Mary by a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit and without a human father." Wayne Grudem, "Systematic Theology", p. 529

Isa 7:10-14 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." 13 And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Lk 1:26-35

Matt 1:18-21 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

The Virgin Birth is a Vital Element of the Story (it's not merely color analysis) - It is as important a LINK in the Chain of Redemption as the Cross & Resurrection!

"The early Christians esteemed this truth so highly that they included it in the first Christian creed. Therefore it must be of paramount importance, a foundational doctrine of our faith." Ray Pritchard, "Credo", p. 62

*"I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
The Creator of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of
the Virgin Mary..."*

The Apostles' Creed

THEOLOGY REVEALED BY THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- For Jesus Christ to Save Humanity from Sin... He had to be a man.
- For Jesus Christ to Save All of Humanity from Sin... He had to be MORE than a mere man.
- For Jesus Christ to be Able to Save at all ... He had to be SINLESS Himself.

For Jesus Christ to Save Humanity from Sin... He had to be a man.

The Christmas Story is NOT an Isolated Event to be Celebrated—it is the NECESSARY First Step

- The Great Story (Bible) begins with a PROBLEM – if you miss this you turn the Bible into something other than what it is (Moralistic Children's Stories)

How Big of a Problem is the Fall? ... Is it Significant Enough for it to Need to be Fixed (most world religions don't try)? ... If so, HOW?

1. **The Fall created a Separation between a Holy God and Sinful Men**
Gen 2:17 "...in the day you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will surely die"
2. **God's Righteous Response is to JUDGE SIN**(to Destroy Sin)
3. **The Judgment of Sin is DEATH**
Rom 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."

... But NOT Just Any Kind of Death!

For Jesus Christ to Save Humanity from Sin... He had to be a man.

... So He Could SATISFY God's Judgment on a MAN.

Gal 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,

Rom 8:3-4 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us

Rom 3:23-25 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness"

God Born as a Man is NOT AN OPTIONAL DOCTRINE(Unless You Treat God's Holiness & Righteousness as optional)

For Jesus Christ to Save All of Humanity from Sin... He had to be MORE than a mere man.

[Heretical View espoused by Francis Young] "...within the Christian church many diverse personal responses to the story of Jesus Christ are acceptable for us as well, and that would certainly include the response that sees Christ as a man in whom God was uniquely at work but not by any means a man who was also fully God." (From "The Myth of God Incarnate" quoted in Systematic Theology, p. 553)

- One Man's Value = One Man
- How Much is GOD Worth? – He is of Infinite Value & Capacity

Eph 1:7-10

For Jesus Christ to Save All of Humanity from Sin... He Had to be MORE than a Man

For Jesus Christ to be Able to Save at all ... He had to be SINLESS Himself.

QUESTION: How Did Sin Come Into Your Life? ... How Did You Catch This Corrupting Disease called "Sin"?

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

Rom 5:18-19 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. 19 For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The Only Sinless Human... Was Born in a Manger

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God."