

The Virgin Birth of
Jesus Christ



by John T Polk II

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If Jesus Christ did not come to earth in a fleshly body, then the New Testament is to be rejected. But if He did, then Judaism, Islam, and all other forms of religions and churches are to be rejected by God and mankind, for He taught, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6). Either Jesus is the greatest impostor of all time, or all other beliefs are false. This conflict is brought to bear in His virgin birth.

1. GOD MAKES THE FIRST STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT TO THE SERPENT WHO BEGUAILED EVE.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed (Genesis 3:15).

- A. “Her seed” is physically impossible, for among humans, males produce the “seed” while females provide the “egg” for reproduction. This expression shows there would be no male involved in the production of the promised child. No one has ever surmised this child was one of Eve’s own children, for “Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore” which is the procedure for “all living” humans since (Genesis 3:20; Genesis 1:26-28). Clearly it points to a “virgin” (one who has not had carnal relations with the opposite sex).
- B. The name of the woman and child, and the time and place it was to occur, were given in later prophecies, for God “gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did” (Romans 4:17).

- C. When Jesus came, in “the fullness of the time,” “God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (**Galatians 4:4**). “Born,” here the Greek ginomai, means “to come into existence.” The physical Earth was not “made [ginomai]” of visible material, but from nothing (**Hebrews 11:3**), just as Jesus’ earthly body had no existence through natural means (involving a male “seed”), but only through a woman’s “seed.” However, Jesus had a non-physical existence before the world (**John 1:3, 10**), before Abraham (**John 8:58**), and before John the Baptist (**John 1:15**).

2. THE ONLY PROPHECY IN SCRIPTURE OF THE “VIRGIN” BIRTH IS:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14**).**

- A. “**Sign**” can be a miraculous event (for example **Deuteronomy 11:2-7**). This child did not live in Isaiah’s day just as woman’s “seed” in **Genesis 3:15** had no reference to a child in Eve’s day. Isaiah’s prophecy was intended to by-pass Ahaz, the stubborn king of Judah who refused to ask for a sign of deliverance from God (**Isaiah 7:11-12**), but to reassure the Israelites their lineage would be preserved until “Immanuel” would be born.

B. **“The virgin”** (Hebrew ha almah) means one, specific virgin. All females begin life as “virgins,” but lose “virginity” by copulation and/or receiving male seed.

- Almah, a feminine form, occurs six other times in the Old Testament: **Genesis 24:43; Exodus 2:8; Psalm 68:25; Proverbs 30:19; Song of Solomon 1:3; Song of Solomon 6:8.** According to these other passages, it never refers to a married woman.
- **Matthew (1:22-23)** quotes **Isaiah 7:14** as fulfilled in Jesus’ birth.

- 1) Matthew’s Greek he parthenos (“the virgin”) is used for ha almah. Parthenos always means “chaste, virginal, unviolated” in New Testament use: **Matthew 25:1, 7, Matthew 25: 11; Luke 1:27; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 7:25, 28, 34-36; 2 Corinthians 11:2.**
- 2) Mary was “virgin” (**Luke 1:27**) because:
 - a) She conceived “before they came together” (**Matthew 1:18**);
 - b) Mary confessed “I do not know a man” (**Luke 1:34**);
 - c) Joseph “did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son” (**Matthew 1:25**);
 - d) “Betrothed” (**Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 2:5**) in Greek is mnasteuo. Interestingly the word for “fasting, abstinence” is nasteuo. The subtle word similarity is not lost. Betrothal (today called “engagement”) was the period from a couple’s commitment to each other till their wedding ceremony, and was (and still should be) a time of sexual abstinence.

- 3) Mary was “the virgin” because never before had:
- a) The angel Gabriel designated who it would be (Luke 1:26-38);
 - b) Isaiah 7:14, it been announced as “fulfilled” (Matthew 1:22-23); and
 - c) A “virgin” been “with child” (Matthew 1:18, Matthew 1:20), nor since!
- C. “Immanuel” means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). God had been with His people in various ways before, but never like this. For the first time, “God was manifested in the flesh” in Jesus Christ (I Timothy 3:16); “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14); God sent “His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin” (Romans 8:3). Truly it was said, in Jesus “dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9).
- D. Without the virgin birth of Jesus, there was no virgin life to be the virgin sacrifice on the cross. The Bible boldly states, however, that Jesus was “put to death in the flesh” (I Peter 3:18) and, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself” (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

3. JOSEPH WAS JESUS’ LEGAL FATHER BECAUSE HE WAS MARRIED TO MARY, WHO WAS JESUS’ PHYSICAL MOTHER.

- A. Thus, Joseph was “the husband of Mary” (Matthew 1:16). Since Mary was “with child of the Holy Spirit” before she “came together” with

Joseph (**Matthew 1:18**); and the child conceived within her was “of the Holy Spirit” (**Matthew 1:20**), therefore “the power of the Highest,” not Joseph, made the child (**Luke 1:35**); then Jesus is “the Son of God” (**Luke 1:35**) NOT man!

For the fact that He is “the Son of God:”

- 1) He died (**Luke 22:70-71**);
 - 2) He did innumerable miracles (**John 3:2; 5:36; John 10:37-38; 21:25**);
 - 3) The Apostles confessed (**Matthew 14:33; 16:16**);
 - 4) The Devil and unbelieving Jews questioned (**Matthew 4:3, 6; 27:39-40**);
 - 5) Demons, though, confessed (**Matthew 8:29; Mark 3:11; 5:7; Luke 4:41**);
 - 6) The centurion admitted (**Matthew 27:54**).
- B. At Jesus’ birth, Joseph was only “betrothed” to Mary (**Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 2:5**), and “did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son” named “Jesus” (**Matthew 1:25**).
- C. After Jesus’ birth, Joseph married Mary, and they had other children (**Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 6:3**). It was natural for people to wrongly assume (“suppose”) that Jesus was Joseph’s son (**Luke 3:23; 4:22; John 1:45; John 6:42**).
- D. After all testimony by God proved Mary’s son was of God, Mary knew Joseph’s real legal relationship to Jesus when she said to Him, “Your father and I have sought You anxiously” (**Luke 2:48**). It is in this sense only that

Joseph and Mary are termed “his parents” (Luke 2:27, 41), but the distinction is drawn as “Joseph and His mother” (Luke 2:43). At age twelve, Jesus knew which “Father’s business” He must do (Luke 2:49).

E. The genealogies record:

- 1) Jesus’ physical lineage to David (Matthew 1:1-16) through Joseph, who was “of the house of David” (Luke 1:27) but “the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus” (Matthew 1:16). “Of whom” in the Greek is feminine, indicating Mary received David’s lineage through Joseph, but she gave birth to the “son of God,” thus making Jesus “the seed of David” (John 7:42; Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8);
- 2) Mary’s lineage to God (Luke 3:23-38), making her NOT the mother of God, but of the body of “the Son of God.”

4. IT IS ‘ANTICHRIST’ TO DENY THE VIRGIN BIRTH FOR THERE IS NO OTHER METHOD DESCRIBED IN SCRIPTURE FOR JESUS TO “COME IN THE FLESH” (I JOHN 4:2-3).

No mythology involves such a “virgin birth” or is factually consistent with a “God in the flesh” like Jesus. God, the Holy Spirit, angels, John the Baptist, the Apostles, and Jesus Christ Himself all bear witness to the “virgin birth” of the Christ.

“What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” (Matthew 22:42)

----- John T. Polk II

All Scriptures and comments, unless otherwise noted, are based on the New King James Version.

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