

Again Joseph, the husband of Mary, was a direct descendant of Jeconiah. If Jesus had been the physical descendant of Joseph, he could not sit on David's throne because of this curse. The Virgin Birth solved this problem. It allowed Jesus to avoid the curse of Jeconiah.

Matthew's Gospel gives the genealogy of Joseph, the step-father of Jesus through David's son Solomon, while in Luke's Gospel, in chapter three, it gives the genealogy of Mary, (Jesus' mother) through David's son Nathan. Through Joseph He became the legal son of David and through Mary He became the physical Son of David, avoiding the curse and becoming heir to the throne of David. So Mary and Joseph were used of God to avert the curse of Jeconiah, while at the same time establishing the Messiah in the royal line of David.

The same man, Jechonias of **Matthew 1:11**, is called Jeconiah in **I Chronicles 3:16** and called Coniah in **Jeremiah 22:24** where he is identified as Coniah, Son of Jecoiakin, King of Judah.

C. To Die for the Sins of Mankind:

Only a perfect sinless Savior could become a substitute for sin. Without the Virgin Birth, His sacrifice on Calvary's Cross could not be accepted, for it is an integral part of the Gospel (**I Corinthians 15:1-4**). Sinful man could not become a substitute for sinful man, only Jesus Christ could atone for our sins. Praise His Holy Name.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." **Luke 1:37**

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." **I Timothy 3:16**



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"And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." **Acts 16:31**

The RICHES

OF GRACE

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"hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11

The Virgin Birth

Miracle or Myth

"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."

Matthew 1:23

The miracle of the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ rests upon the plain teaching of the Word of God. Our Savior's birth is supernatural in that He was conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of a virgin. This uniqueness of Christ set Him apart from the rest of humanity. If God, Who is the creator of life, can produce life from the dust of the earth or from the rib of a man, He would have no problem with a young woman virgin conceiving and giving birth to a son. This is the great mystery of godliness: for with God all things are possible. We must realize that we stand on Holy Ground when considering the Virgin Birth.

"Those who deny that Jesus was without a human father must explain how He was without human failure."

-Unknown

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

Isaiah 7:14

The Doctrine of the Virgin Birth

The doctrine of the Virgin Birth is one of the most vital doctrines of the Christian faith, delivered to the saints (**Jude 3**). It is of such importance that our salvation is based upon it. No honest reader of the Scriptures can deny this wonderful truth. It is not an option, it must be accepted for anyone to be saved.

Many have rejected the Virgin Birth. Some scientists say it is not biologically possible. Human reason also rejects the Virgin Birth saying it is impossible (**Luke 1:37**). Skeptics and critics mock at this truth. Even theologians have denied the plain teachings of this issue. This doctrine divides the Bible believer from the skeptic.

The Virgin Birth was believed by the early church and is a fundamental article in the Apostle's Creed. All Bible believing Christians throughout the centuries have accepted this truth, for without it there is no salvation.

The Evidence of the Virgin Birth

The first evangelical prophecy after the fall of man is found in **Genesis 3:15** where the Deliverer would come from the woman's seed, "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*" This prophecy was given about 4000 years before the birth of Christ. The specific language "her seed" is a unique concept and must be understood as a foreshadowing of the Virgin Birth. A woman has no seed and the word "begat" always refers to the male part of generating a child. Over one hundred times in the Scriptures the word seed or seeds is mentioned and it is always the seed of the man. This passage is saying that the Messiah would be born of a woman without being conceived by man.

Another fascinating statement is made in **Galatians 4:4**, "*But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law....*" Jesus Christ was made of a woman, not of a man and a woman but of a woman only.

In **Isaiah 7:14**, seven hundred years before Christ, we have the wonderful truth of His birth, "*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*" This prophecy is said to be fulfilled in

Matthew's Gospel, chapter one, verses twenty-one and twenty-two. According to **Matthew 1:16**, the Bible clearly states that Jesus was born of Mary; the words "**of whom**" is used showing that He was not begotten of natural generation, but was conceived of the Holy Ghost. The word "begat" is used from verses two through sixteen of Matthew chapter one, with mention of the father's name, but not with Jesus Christ. The Bible also clearly states that Mary was found with child of the Holy Ghost before she and Joseph came together. In **Matthew 1:25**, we are told that Mary **knew not a man till** she brought forth her first born Son. When the angel told Mary in **Luke 1:34** that she would have a child she plainly said, "... *How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?*" The Lord Jesus Christ was not the Son of Joseph as many supposed (**Luke 3:23**). If God says that Mary was a virgin when Jesus was born in three different books of the Bible, who am I to question Him?

The Importance of the Virgin Birth

A. To Avoid the Sin Nature:

The Bible clearly declares that Jesus Christ was Holy, undefiled and sinless, (**Hebrews 7:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Luke 1:35**). But if He had a human father this would not be true because the sin (Adam) nature is passed on by the male. Jesus Christ did not have a fallen, sinful, corrupt nature because His Father is God. Remember, we as human beings are not sinners because we commit sins but we commit sin because we are born with a sinful nature.

B. To Reign as King:

According to **Luke 1:31-33**, Jesus Christ is to sit upon the throne of David and rule and reign over Israel (**2 Samuel 7:12, Acts 2:30-31, Matthew 19:28, Matthew 25:31**). It was the Virgin Birth that allowed Him the right to this position. In **Matthew 1:1-16**, we have a list of the descendants of David who were in the royal lineage and this genealogy stopped with Joseph, the husband of Mary (**Matthew 1:16**). In **Matthew 1:11**, the fourteenth descendant of David in the royal lineage was King Jeconiah. According to **Jeremiah 22:24-30**, a curse was pronounced upon him because of his sin. According to the curse, neither of his seven sons or their descendants were to ever occupy the throne of David.