

The Virgin Birth

(Matthew 1:18-25)

I. Introduction

- A. According to a University of California at Berkeley poll....
 1. 69% of American Baptists believe in the virgin birth...
 2. 66% of Lutherans...
 3. 57% of United Presbyterians...
 4. 39% of Episcopalians...
 5. 34% of Methodists...
 6. 21% of Congregationalists.

B. But if Jesus wasn't virgin born, then He cannot save.

II. The virgin birth conceived. (Matt. 1:18)

- A. Matthew tells us that Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit.
- B. The parallel passage in Luke 1 tells us what the angel told her.
- C. In Luke 1:34, Mary affirms her virginity.
- D. Jesus was born of a sinner, yet was sinless because He was equally born of God.

III. The virgin birth confronted. (Matt. 1:19)

- A. Joseph was "a just man", a righteous Jew, a godly man.
- B. He was not willing to make her a public example by charging her openly in a public court with committing adultery, so he decided to put her away privately.
- C. Matthew 1:20 indicates he went to bed mulling over what he had to do.

IV. The virgin birth clarified. (Matt. 1:20)

- A. The angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream
- B. In verse 21, the angel tells him, "thou shalt call his name JESUS..." which means "Jehovah shall save."
- C. That's the reason why He came.

V. The virgin birth connected. (Matt. 1:22-23)

- A. The Hebrew word "Almah" in Isaiah 7:14 is best translated virgin.
- B. The critics can try to deny it, but they can't ignore Matthew's use of the Greek word "Parthenos," which means virgin.
- C. Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy.

VI. The virgin birth consummated. (Matt. 1:24)

- A. Matthew 1:25 literally says, Joseph, "was not in the habit of knowing her until she had brought forth her first born son."
- B. After that, they had a normal physical relationship which produced other children. (John 7)

VII. Conclusion

- A. He is Immanuel, God with us.
- B. He took our guilt, bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded with our transgressions, was bruised for our iniquities.
2Cor. 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.