

The Virgin Birth Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be pregnant by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, since he was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. ²⁰ But when he had thought this over, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a Son; and you shall name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." ²² Now all this took place so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: ²³ "Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they shall name Him Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." ²⁴ And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, ²⁵ but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he named Him Jesus.

- This passage shows that Jesus' origins are of God and not of man.
- Mary is more than likely an older teen at this time and her mother and her are preparing in excitement for the coming wedding.
- Mary, while the mother of Jesus, was not sinless. The notion that Mary was sinless is not supported by scripture as Romans 3:23 clearly states, "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."
- Engagement in Judaism was legally binding and required divorce if it were to be broken, but sexual relations and living together under one roof were not permitted until after the marriage ceremony.
- The virgin birth is understood as to how Jesus could be both fully human and fully divine. His father in essence was God, his mother, fully human.
- The Christian notion of a virgin conception was no more plausible in the first-century than it is in the twenty-first-century, yet is an integral part of the Christian faith.
- The notion of a virgin birth is foundational to our beliefs as Christians.
- Joseph, by law, was supposed to be harsh to Mary and present her to the public as an adulterer and have her possible stoned.
- Joseph loved Mary and cared for her and even though he was hurt by her, he still loved her and wanted to protect her. Joseph instead adopted the most private form of legal divorce and chose to hand the letter of divorce to her privately.

- As Joseph was considering how to divorce Mary, God quickly changed his mind.
- God will not leave his children in perplexity long.
- The angel explains to Joseph that Mary has not been unfaithful and that her child has been supernaturally conceived. He reminds Joseph of his messianic lineage by calling him “son of David.” The angel conquers Joseph’s fears and lets him know that Mary did not do anything wrong, but that instead she has been blessed by God.
- The child will therefore be legally Joseph’s son and thus legally son of David. And Joseph was to give him the name “Jesus.”
- The name “Jesus” was a common name. It is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua. This name “Joshua” means “salvation.”
- Joshua in the OT led his people to the promised land of Canaan; Jesus leads his people to the promised land of heaven.
- The angel stated that Jesus would “*save his people from their sins.*” Jesus would be sent to the Jews first because they were the promised people who were supposed to take the message of salvation and spread it to the world. Instead they rebelled against Christ.
- When the angel stated that “he shall save,” he stated unequivocally that it will be Jesus and Jesus alone who is and will be the expected Savior. There is no other name under heaven by which a man may be made right with God.
- As God “with us” Jesus enables us to come boldly before God’s throne when we accept the forgiveness of sins he made available and develop an intimate relationship with him.