

CHRISTMAS 2023**[Luke 1:30-35](#)**,

Lk 1:30 (NKJV) Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*

This is where the historical Christmas story begins with Mary being told that she will conceive a child in her womb, the womb of a virgin. The angel Gabriel comes and visits a young girl who was probably only 13 or 14-years old living in a very non-descript, humble little town called Nazareth. There God indicates to her in a miraculous way that she is going to be the mother of the **“Son of God”**. Then to make it even more of a mystery, the angel indicates that all of this will happen while she is still a virgin.

Obviously, from a human perspective what I just described simply is not possible. In fact, in [v34](#) Mary asks the question **“How can this be, since I do not know a man?”**. The angel responds in [v37](#), **“For with God nothing will be impossible.”**, and in [v35](#) the angel says that the **“Holy Spirit will come upon you”** and **“the power of the Highest will overshadow you”**. Mary is probably thinking – *“Sure, no problem at all!”* So, here is what we know. We know that this had never happened before and it has never happened since. This is a one-of-a-kind supernatural event that will never again be duplicated. This entire drama is very critical to biblical theology because it allows **“God the Son”** to be fully God and fully man at the same time, often called the God/Man. To us it is a mystery, but it is at the very heart of Christianity.

Now, one branch of modern-day science called “parthenogenesis” has made some attempts to allow life to be formed without a normal male / female union. *“Parthenos”* is the Greek word **“virgin”**, and so this branch of study means “virgin generated”, or “virgin conceived”. Scientists have been able to do this in laboratory-controlled environments in lower species of animals such as bees, silkworms, sea urchins, worms, and even in rabbits. However, it has never been achieved at a human level because it is humanly impossible. Even if it could be achieved at a human level – and it cannot, the possibility of a “virgin” bearing a son is also an impossibility. Geneticists have demonstrated that man and all mammals have what we call chromosomes. Chromosomes carry genetic information that determine an individual’s traits and characteristics. Every cell in your body has 23 sets of chromosomes. Half are from your mother, half are from your father. The female has two “X” chromosomes, and the male has an “X” chromosome and a “Y” chromosome. So, if you could take an unfertilized egg from a woman and somehow create an environment in which it could reproduce itself, two “X” chromosomes could only reproduce other “X” chromosomes, and therefore that which would be born would be a female, and not a male. That was the case in the rabbit experiments. They could only produce female rabbits. From what we are talking about, even if something like this had been possible, Mary could only have had a daughter, and not a son. So, for Mary to give birth to a son has no human or scientific explanation – and

obviously that is by God's design. God produced the male chromosomes in her womb and **divinely** fertilized the egg. Stated another way, in the virgin birth, Jesus had no **earthly** father.

Now, the biblical explanation is really very simple. It is [v35](#) - "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you**", and for that reason, He "**will be called the Son of God**". Please appreciate that everything we believe as Christians is predicated on the virgin birth, or what we call the Incarnation. If you tamper with this truth, then you tamper with the very foundation of Christianity itself. The result is that you create a god that cannot save you. You have a false Christ and ultimately a bogus salvation. In essence, you are just pretending to be saved – and that is not good.

If you believe that Jesus is a man and only a man, or if you believe that Jesus is a created angel, or if you believe that He is just a great teacher or a great prophet, or if you believe that Jesus is just an angelic spirit and anything other than being the virgin born God/Man, then you are assaulting the very deity of Christ and my understanding from [Galatians 1](#) is that you have incurred an actual curse on yourself. Christianity rests on the virgin birth, on the Incarnation, and on the indescribable sacrifice that "**God the Son**" made in order to become our Savior and the "**Son of God**". In order to be the "**Son of God**" (not "**God the Son**"), He had to be born of God, and in order to be the Son of Man, He had to be born of a woman. That is exactly what happened. **JESUS WAS NOT CREATED**. He existed eternally, but was now simply appearing as described in [Philippians 2:8](#) – "**And being found in appearance as a man...**"

Obviously, the Jews did not understand the virgin birth as it was prophetically identified to them. No one would have understood a virgin birth. They believed the Messiah would be the "**Son of David**" and come in the royal line as one of David's greater sons and one with royal blood, but they never understood that He would be the "**Son of God**". In fact, when Jesus told them that He was the "**Son of David**", that was not a problem to them at all. However, when He said that He was the "**Son of God**", now that was an entirely different matter. In fact, it was the very thing for which they killed Him. They **NEVER** argued with Him when He claimed to be the "**Son of Man**" either. Remember that I have taught you before that Jesus used the title the "**Son of Man**" to describe Himself more than any other title. Apparently, the Jews actually accepted all of that. However, when He claimed to be God, that was all they could take. He crossed over the line, and they killed Him. They may have been expecting some kind of special birth, but this was way too much to bear – born of a virgin to some small, insignificant couple in the back woods of Israel – a dumpy little place called Nazareth. It was way too much to handle.

Now, I want to give you three foundational truths related to the virgin birth. First of all, there is [Genesis 3](#). Man has fallen and God has pronounced a curse on the man and the woman, a curse on the ground, and a curse on the serpent. The woman will have to endure child bearing, and man will work by the sweat of his brow, but look at what [Genesis 3:15](#) says,

Ge 3:15 (NKJV) **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."**

This is a very important prophecy simply because it is the first prophecy that speaks of the redemptive work of Christ. There is coming One who will crush the head of the serpent with a deadly blow. Satan inflicted a blow on Christ at the cross, but it was not the end, but the beginning. Out of the death of Christ came our salvation. As He was resurrected, Jesus dealt the most crushing of all blows on Satan himself. Notice in [v15](#) that Christ is called "**her Seed**". Why is this important? It is because the woman

does not have a seed. When God gave a promise to Abraham, He indicated that “**His seed would bless all the families of the earth**”. The man has the seed, but the woman does not. Only one time has a woman ever had a seed without a male counterpart, and that was in the virgin birth, the birth of Christ. We are in [Genesis 3](#) and God is talking genetically in a way that would not be understood until our generation. Look at [Isaiah 7:14](#),

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

Do you want a sign? Here it is – “**the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son**”, and they “**shall call His name Immanuel**”– meaning “**God with us**”. Obviously, this prophecy was not something that could humanly happen, and they knew that. Just having a son is not a sign. **However, when a virgin is pregnant with a son, that is a sign**, and even if parthenogenesis could happen, it could only be a girl. Turn to [Matthew 1:21-23](#). Here an angel of God actually interprets this passage in [Isaiah 7:14](#) to Joseph when it says,

Mt 1:21 (NKJV) **And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."**

If a girl gets pregnant and has a son, that is not a sign. However, if a **virgin** gets pregnant and has a son, that is definitely a sign.

Secondly, we have the doctrine of the Trinity. If God had not existed in three persons as the Triune God, then what took place at the Incarnation would never have happened. In the Incarnation, there was this divine subjection of “**God the Son**” to “**God the Father**”. These terms are theologically critical. [Deuteronomy 6:4](#) is really the most defining statement in Scripture on the nature of God.

Dt 6:4 (NKJV) **"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!**

Many Jews literally wore this statement around their foreheads and arms and placed it on the doorposts of their homes. All of the surrounding nations had polytheistic gods, or many gods. That is why in [Deuteronomy 6:5](#) it says,

Dt 6:5 (NKJV) **You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

Jehovah was the only God that the Jews had, so they could give their full devotion to this one true God. He was “**the LORD your God**”. [James 2:19](#) says,

Jas 2:19 (NKJV) **You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!**

Demons have better theology than most religions. The Triune God of the Bible is “**one God**”. He is one in nature, one in essence, but in three persons. I cannot explain it, nor will I try. [Genesis 1:26](#) says,

Ge 1:26 (NKJV) **Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image..."**

The word “**God**” is “*Elohim*” – a plural word. So “**God**” is plural, “**Us**” is plural, and “**Our**” is plural. There are many other instances in the Old Testament which identify the plurality of the Godhead. At the baptism of Jesus, we have all three involved – the Father speaking from heaven, the Son being baptized, and the Spirit descending as a dove. [John 15:26](#) says,

Jn 15:26 (NKJV) "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

All three members of the Trinity are mentioned. In the Great Commission in [Matthew 28:19](#), we are told to “**baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**”. [2 Corinthians 13:14](#) says,

2Co 13:14 (NKJV) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

The last foundation is seen in the work of Christ Himself in [Isaiah 43:11](#). Listen carefully, for this is absolutely critical to the very foundations of our Christian faith.

Isa 43:11 (NKJV) I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior.

This is God speaking in the first person. Turn to [Isaiah 45:22](#),

Isa 45:22 (NKJV) "Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

In [Titus 1:4](#), Jesus is called Savior,

Tit 1:4 (NKJV) To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

[Titus 2:13](#) says,

Tit 2:13 (NKJV) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

[Titus 3:4-6](#),

Tit 3:4 (NKJV) But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

In these verses God is called Savior, and Christ is called Savior. I.e., Jesus is God. [Philippians 2:9-11](#) eloquently says what we so deeply believe,

Php 2:9 (NKJV) Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

[Luke 2:11](#) says,

Lk 2:11 (NKJV) For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.