

“HOW JESUS WAS BORN”

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 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. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 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."

(Luke 1:31-35 NKJV)

I heard a song this week by Becky Kelley on YouTube "Where's The Line To See Jesus?" A long line of children excitedly waits in line to see Santa. One little boy asks "Where's the line to see Jesus? Is He here at the store? If Christmas time is His birthday, why don't we see Him more? Where's the line to see Jesus? He was born for me. Santa Claus brought me presents, but Christ gave His life for me."

You can listen to Christmas music for hours and never hear a carol about Jesus' birth. A lot of stores are wary of using the word Christmas. The atheists obtained permission to set up a display on the State Capitol grounds in the vicinity of the manger scene. The display they set up was about the winter solstice. They should have set up one with Santa Claus, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, a one horse open sleigh, a snowman, a Christmas tree, poinsettia, mistletoe, chestnuts roasting on an open fire, and "I'll Be Home For Christmas"!

Here in church, we should celebrate every detail of the birth of Jesus.

When God ordained, before the world was created, that the Son would be the Savior of mankind from sin, He ordained that He would be born of a virgin human woman. In the Virgin Birth God created a human

body, that body was holy, and that human nature was assumed into the Person of God the Son.

1.) Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. (Luke 1:26-31 NKJV)

Two times in this short passage Mary is referred to as a virgin. In the Greek language the word can only mean a virgin, a woman who has never had sexual relations. Further on in this chapter Mary herself confirms this. Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" Despite this some of the newer translations translate this word as "young woman." God chose Mary because she was a virgin and because she found favor with Him. The Bible records only one other person who is said to have found favor with God; that was Jesus.

Mary would conceive in her womb and bring forth a Son who would be the Savior. He would be holy because He would be born of a virgin and without the seed of a man. The sin of Adam is transmitted from one generation to the other by the seed of the man. There are people who decide not to father children because they have some genetic disease that is passed from generation to generation. Sin is a disease that all children are born with. The Psalmist wrote:

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

(Psalms 51:5 NKJV)

By using a young woman who was a virgin and favored by God and causing her to conceive without a man God created a human being who was without sin. How was Mary able to conceive without a man?

The Holy Spirit "overshadowed" her. This same word is used in Genesis 1 – "And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

2.) "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 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. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:31-33 NKJV)

The baby born to the Virgin Mary was truly human. This was important for three reasons. He was born to rule an earthly kingdom, to take the throne of David. Though He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, he was legally Joseph's first born son. Joseph took Mary to be his wife before Jesus was born. Joseph was heir to the throne of David. Jesus inherited it when Joseph died.

Jesus was human so that He might experience the life of humans.

Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. (Hebrews 2:17-18 NKJV)

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15 NKJV)

who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness--by whose stripes you were healed. (1 Peter 2:21-24 NKJV)

These last two Scriptures point to the third reason Jesus was born as a human – so that He could die. As the eternal Son of God He could not die. He took upon Himself the body of a human so that He could be tempted, suffer, and die. His name Jesus means "God saves." "For He will save His people from their sins."

3.) Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" 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. (Luke 1:34-35 NKJV)

The baby born to the Virgin Mary was truly God. In taking upon Him the likeness and appearance of man and in humbling Himself, the Son of God did not cease to be God. As the angel said to Mary, "that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." The Old Testament prophecies of His birth say that He will be Divine.

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.(which means God with us)(Isaiah 7:14) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6 NKJV)

The Gospels testify that the baby that was born is the Son of God. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11 NKJV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-5,14 NKJV)

In the Epistles the baby Jesus is declared to be the Son of God. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory. (1 Timothy 3:16 NKJV)

For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"? And again: "I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." (Hebrews 1:5-6 NKJV)

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For His bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing
Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Noels ringing
Tidings bringing: Christ the Babe is Lord of all
Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow, Praises voicing Greet the morrow: Christ the Babe was
born for you.

Polish carol

