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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

The Birth of Jesus.

(Luke 1:35)

(2013).

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The Birth of Jesus (Luke 1:35).

INTRODUCTION: many people have difficulty in believing that Jesus came into this world through the birth of the Virgin Mary by the creative power of God and the Holy Spirit. This study sets about to give a brief overview and some insight into Christ's birth.

Mary's Child will be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-35 ----- ²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

From these verses we learn: -

- God sent an angel named Gabriel to Mary.
- Jesus was born in a city of Galilee named Nazareth.
- The mother of Jesus was a virgin woman named Mary.
- Mary had found favour with God.
- Mary was betrothed to Joseph a descendent of David.
- Mary would miraculously conceive in her womb and bear a son.
- Mary was to name her son Jesus.
- Jesus will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
- God will give Jesus the throne of his father David.
- Jesus will reign over Israel forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.
- The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her and Mary conceived and the child Jesus was born.
- Mary's child Jesus was to be called the Son of God.

These verses shine a spotlight on the following three truths: -

1. Jesus was born by the Holy Spirit and by the Most High God.
2. Jesus is the Son of God and God is his heavenly Father.
3. Jesus was to be called the Son of God not God the Son or God (as some do).

Since the Bible personifies the Holy Spirit in the same way that it personifies wisdom as a woman and Jerusalem as a mother with children many amongst the global church believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate person to God the Father, but if this was true Jesus could be referred to as the Son of the Holy Spirit since the

Holy Spirit could also be seen as the father if Jesus (if the Holy Spirit was a person). The reality is the Holy Spirit is the eternal Spirit of God and not an independent person to God.

This truth is proven by following Scriptures: -

- John saw the Spirit of God descending on Jesus like a dove (Matt. 3:16).
- The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form, like a dove (Luke 3:22).
- John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove (John 1:32).

God does not pour people down onto others, you cannot pour people out. Added to this truth the following verses show that God is able to take a portion of His Spirit from one person and place it onto others: -

- Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD and he gathered seventy men of the elders and placed them around the tent then the LORD came down in the cloud and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. but they did not continue doing it and Eldad and named Medad remained in the camp and the Spirit rested on them and so they prophesied (Num. 11:24-26).

These verses clearly show that God is able to pour out His Spirit in varying portions on whoever he chooses. The following verse shows that God poured his Spirit out upon Jesus without measure (meaning without any limitation).

- John the Baptist said: "For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit unto him without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand (John 3:34-35).

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God that enlightens the mind, empowers for ministry, convicts of sin, guides in the path of righteousness, comforts in times of sorrow and brings God's love, joy and peace to the heart and mind of the faithful who have believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some believe that Jesus is God, this is enormously difficult to comprehend, because it means Jesus gave birth to himself, and surely it must cause those who belief Jesus is God to wonder who was running the universe while the Almighty God was a foetus in the womb of Mary.

There is no Scripture in the Bible that states Jesus is God nor is there any Scripture in from Genesis to Revelation that states a sinner must believe Jesus is God to be saved.

This is because God always remains the immortal, invisible, eternal God Almighty the creator of all things and the source of all life and Jesus remains his most beloved glorified eternal Son exalted to His right hand side (where he sits at this time) and the redeemer and Saviour of the world.

When a natural father gives birth to a son the life of that father gives life to a new life, nothing has been robbed from the father's character, he remains complete physically, spiritually and in character nothing has been taken from the father's form or personality. This same principal applies with God the Father and the birth of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

The following clearly show that Jesus had his own independent Spirit: -

- Jesus was tempted in the wildness, God cannot be tempted.
- Jesus died on the cross, God is immortal and eternal He cannot die.
- Jesus constantly told his disciple he only does the will of His Father (implying he could have done his own will).
- In the Garden of Gethsemane he prayed, Father not my will, but yours be done.

The eternal Father created and conceived new life by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary and: -

- The prophet Moses said was to come like him.
- Israel's promised Messiah the Christ.
- The one to come that all the Old Testament Scriptures speak of.
- The redeemer and Saviour of the World.
- God's most beloved Son.

Was born into this world in a manger in Bethlehem (meaning the House of Bread) in the city of Galilee, like any natural son born to a human father this new born child born of the Spirit of God the Father remains the eternal Son of the immortal, invisible, eternal God Almighty the creator of all things and source of all life and God throughout eternity remains his heavenly Father.

NOTE: if Jesus was really God and Mary was his mother all those who believe Jesus was God would be right in their belief Mary is the mother of God. This would be a true statement since it would mean (if Jesus was God) that the eternal Almighty God from the time of Jesus birth has a human mother.

Some question the Virgin birth for the following four reasons: -

1. Before the birth of Christ many historical pagan faiths had begun their religions with a belief in a virgin birth.
2. Down through the centuries some hold a very old belief that regarded Jesus as the true son of Joseph, the husband of Mary. These people do not accept the record of the virgin birth and generally believe that the godly sonship of Jesus stems only from his character and not from his exceptional paternity. This is called the Josephite teaching.
3. Many believe that Jesus was, and always has been God the Son who became flesh in the virgin's womb. This teaching emerged only after some centuries of theological discussion, and is now embodied in the accepted creeds of the orthodox churches, to those who believe it this doctrine is exceptionally precious.
4. Others believe that Jesus was the unique Son of God by his birth through begetting by God's creative power through the Holy Spirit and by his speaking the words of God and doing His works.

These obviously raise the following four questions: -

1. Does the Christian belief of a virgin birth come from pagan religions?
2. Was Joseph or God the real father of Jesus?
3. Is Jesus God the Son who became flesh in the Virgin Mary's womb?
4. Is Jesus the unique Son of God by his birth?

Any believer who believes the Bible to be the wholly inspired and the infallible record of God's revelation to man should question any view, which casts doubt upon the Bible's clear teaching, to do this we need to go to the Scriptures themselves to find out if the virgin birth is established only on two or three verses in the New Testament or do we find it woven and threaded throughout the Old Testament as well. Is the revelation of Mary's birth though veiled, hinted at and spoken of in the Old Testament? Is the revelation of the birth of the Son of God ultimately like that of the Son himself having the veil slowly being removed as the fulfillment becomes closer and clearer to its readers and finally manifested to God's people in his chosen time?

Question One: does the Christian belief of a virgin birth come from pagan religions? It is true that many pagan faiths began with the belief of a virgin birth, but many pagan faiths' also embrace a belief in a worldwide flood and embrace the believe that washing and soaking themselves in the blood of animals cleanses from sin. This raises the question, "Does this mean the Christian belief in the virgin birth and the flood of Genesis and the belief that Jesus blood cleanses from all sin is built on occult beliefs systems or that these occult religions have built their false systems on a biblical truth that they have embraced?"

Consider the following: when a man invents a product that is perfect in every way and because of this is expensive, and others copy it so that their product looks the same even though they have used inferior materials so they can sell it cheaper and have a bigger global market, does this mean that the original product is any less in value and any less perfect, obviously not. Likewise, just because pagan religions embrace similar practices and beliefs to what the Bible teaches does not make Bible truth to be false. In fact it is quite the contrary since it shows that other religions see some truth in biblical practices and teachings otherwise they would not adopt them into their own faiths.

Question two: was Joseph or God the real father of Jesus? This is known as the Josephite teaching it is a very old belief and one that cannot stand without denying the very clear narratives of the conception and birth of Christ as given in Matthew's and Luke's Gospel records (Matt. 1:18-25) (Luke 1:26-35). This teaching produces a direct questioning of the authority of Scripture since it requires the teachings of Jesus birth as recorded in Matthew and Luke to be grossly distorted and twisted or denied all together.

Question three: is Jesus God the Son who became flesh in the Virgin Mary's womb? The idea that Jesus was, and always has been God the Son who became flesh in the virgin's womb emerged only after some centuries of theological discussion, and is now embodied in the accepted creeds of the orthodox churches. To those who believe Jesus God the Son the doctrine is exceptionally precious. Though precious to some the title God the Son does not originate from the Bible, but from human speculation, assumption and man's faulty reasoning. Consider the following, there is not one Scripture in the entire Bible that states Jesus is God the Son, nor is there one Scripture from Genesis to Revelation that states a sinner must believe Jesus is God the Son to be saved. In contrast to this silence there are multitudes of Scriptures that state, "Whoever believes Jesus is the Son of God will be saved."

Added to this the angel Gabriel said to Mary: -

- The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

NOTICE: the angel Gabriel never said Jesus would be called God the Son, but the Son of God, why would anyone change the name of Jesus from the name God's angel Gabriel gave him.

Question four: is Jesus the unique Son of God by his birth? The third belief is that Jesus was the unique Son of God by his birth through begettall by God's creative power through the Holy Spirit and by his speaking the words of God and doing God's works. This teaching is in full harmony with the Scriptures, not one verse has to be twisted or distorted to arrive at this understanding since Matthew and Luke have very clearly recorded the account of Jesus birth in this way (Matt. 1:18-25) (Luke 1:26-35).

Since all Christians believe that God created all creation it stuns this author why some would find it so difficult to believe God could alter a gene in the womb of Mary so that she could conceive a child, compared to creating Adam from dust and Eve from a rib, the Sun, the Moon and the host of heaven from nothing and the birds of the air and all living creatures that roam our planet by a spoken word, causing a woman to conceive a child and then bring that child into the world through the process of a natural birth (which thousands of woman are doing every day) in comparison seems a very simple task to such a creative God.

Following are seven beings with the appearance of man yet all having different origins: -

1. Adam was made from the dust of the earth and enlivened by the breath of God.
2. Eve was made from part of Adam while he was in a deep sleep.
3. Cain was born by sexual reproduction.
4. Isaac was born to a woman past menopause and a very aged man.
5. John the Baptist was born to a woman that was unable to have children and very old.
6. Angels were created looking like men, but apparently immortal and with much greater powers.
7. Jesus was born of a virgin without the intervention of a man.

If it was possible to gather these seven people in one room, look, talk and examine them all as we might, they would nevertheless all have the appearance of man, but each has a very different origin, therefore it should not be hard to conceive that God through His creative power and by the Holy Spirit created the seed within Mary and caused her to conceive the child Jesus the Son of God.

God is so creative He is able to produce creatures that look, eat, talk, sleep and walk like man in at least six different ways and we cannot tell the difference between them. Today man is able to manipulate the genes and theoretically clone another being from the DNA of another human, Scientist today say that a virgin can theoretically give birth by changing genetic information, it is technically within the grasp of science that a dead person could be cloned, if man with a mortal and limited mind is able to medically achieve such marvels how simple for God who spoke while the earth was void and in darkness and all creation came into existence to speak the word to Mary and bring that word also into existence.

Not My Will, but Your Will be Done.

Matthew 26:39-42 ----- ³⁹going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

These verses show that though Jesus was born of God he was an individual person with his own will and personality apart from God His heavenly Father. Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane prayed: -

- My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.
- If this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

Jesus in extreme agony prayed twice that the brutal, bloody and cruel suffering he was about to face could be taken away, he was fully aware of the horror that lay before him and naturally wanted to avoid it if there was some other way God could save us.

Naturally Jesus did not want to face the suffering and humiliation of the cross, we know this because he prayed those famous words, "Not my will but yours be done." Jesus will, was for God to find some other way to save us to eternal life. Jesus was an individual being that chose to be absolutely obedient to the will of his heavenly Father.

In the same manner that a human father gives birth to a son from his own seed and that son is in some sense is part of that father, yet the son and the father have their own will and individual personalities quite distinct from each other, so it is with Christ he was made of the seed of God the Father, but is individual person and has his own will and personality, he could have chosen his own way, but Jesus the Son of God chose to be obedient unto death to His heavenly Father rather than succumb to the temptations of his own will.

Christ said, I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5:30).

A Court of Law and the Virgin Birth.

Following are seven evidences that a lawyer would use in a Court of Law to prove the truth of the Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ: -

1. The indication that a virgin birth might eventuate (Gen 3:15).
2. Evidence from the supposed father (Matt 1:16-25).
3. The reaction from the virgin mother (Luke 1:26-56).
4. A doctors opinion (Doctor Luke does not dispute it).
5. The son's own opinion of who his Father is (John 1:1-8).
6. An indication of divine intervention (Dan 2:44).
7. The taunts of Sceptics, "We be not born of fornication" (John 8:41).

The following verses show the importance of understanding who the Father of Jesus is.

Jesus himself said: -

- This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent (John 17:3).
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

From the beginning of the Bible there is indication of a virgin birth. There is evidence from the supposed father and a reaction from the mother. A doctor does not dispute it and the Son speaks of who his real father is. There are sceptic's taunts of it and from the beginning Scripture is full of numerous indications of divine intervention.

Miracle Births in the Bible.

The Bible says, God brings forth from the womb and God shuts up the womb. The birth of Adam was a miracle, (he was made from the dust of the earth) and the birth of Eve was a miracle (she was made from Adams rib). Everyone who believes in God believes in the creation story of Adam and Eve so why do some think it that it is impossible for God by his creative power and the Holy Spirit to conceive a child in a human woman that he created, especially when all He would have to do is alter some genetic information, even scientists today are theoretically able to produce a virgin birth by altering certain genetic information in the female body.

Babies without the Need of a Father.

Dr Orly Lacham-Kaplan, from Monash University in Melbourne told the BBC that it may be possible to have a baby without involving men.

Today scientists in Australia have found a way to fertilise eggs using genetic material from any cell in the body and not just sperm.

She told the interviewer that the technique could potentially help infertile couples and lesbians to have babies without the need of a father, but at this stage woman would only be able to give birth to males since woman do not carry the genetic information required to make a boy.

Dr Lacham-Kaplan said that her team of scientist could theoretically use somatic cells from a female to produce the same embryo so that two women who wish to have their own biological children maybe be able to use this technology to achieve that aim.

Six Miracle Births.

1. The birth of Isaac was a miracle, Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 when Isaac was born
2. The birth of Jacob and Esau was a miracle, Rebekah was barren, until Isaac her husband prayed and God says He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob it is interesting that all these births were through a miracle of some kind.
3. The birth of Joseph was a miracle because Rachel Jacob's wife was barren until God answered her desire
4. The birth of Samson was a miracle, Manoah's wife was barren.
5. The birth of John the Baptist was a miracle, Zacharias and Elizabeth John's parents were well stricken in years
6. The birth of Jesus was a miracle he was born through the creative power of God

Those who try to dispense with the miraculous element of Christ's birth are denying the uniqueness of God's Son and their perfect and beautiful relationship, perhaps they should consider the angel Gabriel's reply to Mary's uncomprehending bewilderment: -

- For nothing will be impossible with God (Luke 1:37).

Everyone who believe in the Christian God, believes he created everything that exists, it seems amazing when this is taken into account that some still have trouble believing He cannot by the same creative power make a tiny alteration to a woman's gene so that she would bear a child

For further information see the title: -

- The Virgin Birth and the Promised Seed.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.