



Miraculous Conception, Marvelous Birth, Manifestation of God's Gift to Mankind

Wow! If we get through these 3 topics in 40 minutes, it will be a miracle!!

We talk about God's intervention into the lives of those on planet Earth by bringing His Son into the world...but, do we understand the **M**otive behind the gift, the **M**asterful plan God created to save mankind from total annihilation, and the **M**ost **M**omentous, **M**atchless event in human history?

Miraculous Conception—Not Immaculate Conception...

Truth:

1. **God performs miracles!**
2. **What is impossible with man is possible with God.**
3. **The Bible is infallible...no mistakes.**

Proverbs 30:5-6, "Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar."

4. **God does not lie.**

Matthew 1:18: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."

Important and Relevant Theology:

- *In this short verse is contained a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith: the virgin birth.*

- *It is the truth voiced in all ecumenical confessions, including our Apostles' Creed: "Christ was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary."*
- *It is one of the great truths of grace!*
- *On the foreground stands the miracle of the incarnation: God becoming man.*
- *It is only on the basis of this miracle that God's people can be saved.*
- *God made possible that which is humanly impossible: our salvation.*
- *It is beyond all human imagination that Christ is in the divine Person of the Son of God both man and God.*

Truth and Grace Stirred Together:

A "Born Again" experience is similar to "the Miraculous Conception."...

We have in our text the amazing truth of the virgin birth!

A woman who had never known a man intimately, who had never, to use the words of our text, "come together" with a man, conceived a child. She was a young woman, she was an unwed woman who had preserved herself pure and holy, she was a virgin—and she conceived a child!

The virgin birth is a sign that truly Christ is the Son of God made flesh! This is supported by the end of our text: "she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."

- *She was not found with child of Joseph, she was not found with child of a man, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*
- *The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, was sent forth by the triune God to do that work of God.*
 - ✓ *The power of this Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, and a small ovum inside of her was given life.*
 - ✓ *That seed in Mary was human because it was the seed of a woman, but when it was given life by the Holy Spirit, that baby became divine.*
 - ✓ *God became the Father of that child.*
 - *Joseph was always viewed by others as Jesus' father. But Joseph was not Jesus' father. God was!*

The Bible recognizes this great truth everywhere. The scriptural account is consistent throughout:

- ***Jesus was born of a woman who was a sinner just as we are. Jesus assumed the human nature. He was a man with the same weaknesses as a man. But***
- ***He was also the divine Son of God—He had a divine nature that made Him sinless and all powerful!***

Christ was born into this world to show His divine birth...He was born in this world to save us sinners!

Notice why it was that Joseph was told to name his child Jesus: verse 2, “for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Our sin is of such a nature that it alienates us from God. Sin forms a barrier that keeps us from God’s favor and fellowship. Sin is this huge wall that shuts us out of heaven!

All men in Adam are worthy of eternal punishment on account of sin. Truth is...no amount of good deeds is going to pay that price for our sin. No amount of good works is going to earn our way into heaven.

The simple fact is that we sinned, and that sin has to be paid for. And we cannot pay for it. On the contrary, we daily add to our sin.

If I were to pay the price for my sins alone, I would have to suffer God’s wrath for an eternity!

God’s wrath is eternal, and therefore punishment is eternal!

The only man that is able to bear God’s eternal wrath and then live to come out from under it is one who is Himself very God.

Only one who is divine would be able to bear the eternal weight of God’s anger!

This is why the virgin birth is so, so significant! By means of this miraculous conception of Christ, He became man.

As man Jesus was able to bear the sins of men. He was a fit representative of man, being a man Himself.

But Jesus was also God, able to bear the burden of God’s wrath against our sins and then be able to deliver us from them! Christ had to be God. If He was not God, then we are still lost in our sins. The price would not be paid.

Being God, Christ Jesus was all powerful to pay the price of sins and to deliver God’s people from them!

To deny the virgin birth is to deny our own salvation!

That then is why we rejoice...for the Savior, Jesus the Christ has come.

This truly was God's manifestation of His gift to mankind!

Manifestation: a public demonstration of power and purpose.

It was the present of all presents...wrapped not in paper and tinsel, ribbon and bows. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a cradle where animals were fed. *“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7 ESV*

Three (3) thoughts on this passage:

1. When Jesus was born, there was no room in the Inn, and so Mary and Joseph used a nearby stable for Jesus' birth. With no other cloth to use, **Jesus was wrapped in Joseph's "swaddling clothes" - the cloth normally reserved for a person's death.** *The King of Kings and Lord of Lords came into this world in a lowly manger and was wrapped with burial clothes - in truth, He was born to die. To die for the sins of all mankind.*

Note: It is believed that travelers in Biblical times took burial clothing with them in case one of their family members died on their journey. The burial cloths were called “swaddling cloths.” If that is the case, then Joseph would have swaddling cloths with him as they journeyed to Bethlehem...and back home. Again, this is only one of three thoughts on this passage of Scripture.

2. **Swaddling clothes confirmed Jesus' Davidic lineage.** *Luke 2:12, “And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”*

Why were the swaddling clothes a sign to the shepherds? First, we must remember that the Messiah was predicted and prophesied to be a “son of David.” His genealogy was a key indicator to knowing who was the one truly sent from God. Solomon wrote a book around 1000 BC called the Wisdom of Solomon where he states: *Wisdom of Solomon 7:4 “I was nursed in swaddling clothes.”* So wrapped in Swaddling Clothes was a sign or code language that he was David's son. Just as Solomon was David's real, physical son who was wrapped in “swaddling clothes,” the Messiah, the ultimate son of David would also be wrapped in “swaddling clothes” confirming his Davidic lineage.

3. **In Ezekiel 16, God mentions “Nativity,” “Swaddling Clothes” and the concept of adoption.** *Ezekiel 16:4-8, “As for your nativity, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed in water to cleanse you; you were not rubbed with salt nor wrapped in swaddling cloths...you were thrown out into the open field, when you yourself were loathed on the day you were born. 6 “And when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ 7 I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. 8 “When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord God.*

He speaks of Israel (and all of us by implication) as those who were not accepted by our earthly parents. We were not loved, washed, or brought into our family. We were thrown out into a field to die. No one cared enough to wrap us in... You guessed it, “Swaddling clothes.” God happens by and sees us struggling and dying. He finds us, loves us, cleans us, adopts us, and parents us to maturity.

This Christmas, God offers to adopt anyone who feels thrown into a field, discarded, and rejected. He longs to wrap you in the loving adoptive clothes that Mary and Joseph wrapped their son in as well.

Accept the Savior and Live Forever!

That is the Manifestation of God to Man!

Merry Christmas!