

Special Revelation

E. Gabriel's solution to Joseph's dilemma – Matthew 1:18-25

1. Matthew 1:18a – Matthew began explaining Jesus' unique and supernatural birth.
2. Matthew 1:18b – As mentioned earlier, in a Jewish marriage if either the man or woman was unfaithful during the betrothal period, he/she was guilty of adultery and could be put to death. Deuteronomy 22:23-24

Special Revelation

3. Matthew 1:18c – When Mary returned from visiting Elizabeth, Joseph realized she was pregnant.
4. Matthew 1:19a – Joseph was a believer and wanted to take the proper action in obedience to God.
5. Matthew 1:19b – Joseph meditated on his dilemma because he did not want to expose his beloved Mary to public disgrace.

Special Revelation

6. Matthew 1:19c – From Joseph’s perspective, his choices were limited.
 - a. Deuteronomy 22:13-21 – Joseph’s first option was to apply the death penalty and execute Mary. He had the legal right to make her a public example.

Special Revelation

- b. Deuteronomy 24:1 – Joseph’s second option was to give Mary a divorce decree, which would save her life but make future marriage impossible for him as long as she lived.
- c. Joseph struggled between his legal choices and his love for Mary.

Special Revelation

7. Matthew 1:20a - While Joseph tried to determine the correct action, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and revealed the supernatural circumstances of Mary's pregnancy.
8. Matthew 1:20b – The angel complimented Joseph as a member of David's noble family.
9. Matthew 1:20c – Gabriel gave Joseph the missing information that would allow him to make a wise choice, one that glorified God.

Special Revelation

10. Matthew 1:21a – The angel gave Joseph the responsibility of naming Mary's child Jesus.

11. Matthew 1:21b – The angel emphasized that Jesus would bring salvation from sin.

12. Matthew 1:22-23 – Matthew emphasized that Jesus' birth fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7.

Special Revelation

13. Matthew 1:24-25 – Joseph obeyed the divine commands with humility and self-control. He didn't consummate the marriage until after Jesus' birth.

Virgin Birth

F. A SHORT DOCTRINE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

1. Matthew 1:23 – The Greek word *PARTHENOS* means virgin.
 - a. Matthew 1:23 quoted Isaiah 7:14, which used the Hebrew word *ALMAH*, meaning young woman.
 - b. Although not the precise Hebrew word for virgin, *ALMAH* describes a woman whose characteristics include virginity.

Virgin Birth

- c. Not one of *ALMAH*'s seven uses in the Old Testament refers to a woman who has lost her virginity.
- d. The Hebrew scholars who translated the Hebrew Old Testament into the Greek language for the Hellenistic Jews in 285 BC (the Septugint) used *PARTHENOS*, which means virgin, to translate *ALMAH*.

Virgin Birth

2. The virgin birth of Messiah was a miracle of equal magnitude with the atonement, Jesus' resurrection, and the regeneration of those who believe in Christ.
 - a. In his genealogy, Matthew used the feminine singular for the pronoun *whom* (Greek: *EX HES*, of whom) to show that Jesus came from Mary, not from Joseph (Matthew 1:16b), thus indicating the miracle of His virgin birth.

Virgin Birth

- b. A plural pronoun would have shown that both Mary and Joseph were His parents.
- c. Matthew's purposeful use of the feminine singular proves that Mary alone was the human parent of Jesus.

Virgin Birth

3. Christ's virgin birth is an inseparable part of His deity and sinlessness.
 - a. To deny the virgin birth is to deny that Jesus is God and existed forever from eternity past.
 - b. You can say that you do not believe in the virgin birth, but you cannot say that the Scriptures do not teach it.

Virgin Birth

4. Only through the virgin birth could Jesus be both man and God at the same time.
5. Six reasons Jesus had to be born of a virgin
 - a. Jesus had to be a true human to be the sin-bearer for humanity. 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - b. Jesus had to be virgin-born to be sinless. Hebrews 4:15
 - c. Jesus had to be sinless to be judged for our sins. Hebrews 10:5-7, 1 Peter 2:24

Virgin Birth

- d. Through the virgin birth, Jesus was qualified to be the promised eternal heir to the throne of David according to the Davidic Covenant. 2 Samuel 7:16
- e. Jesus had to be virgin-born to be our Mediator. Hebrews 9:14-15, 1 Timothy 2:5-6
- f. By being born of Mary only, Jesus was not under the Coniah curse. Jeremiah 22:28-30

Virgin Birth

6. Scripture progressively revealed the impact of the virgin birth.
 - a. Genesis 3:15-16 gave the first prophecy of the virgin birth.
 - b. Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6 gave the Jewish prophecy of the virgin birth.
 - c. Matthew 1:19-25 recounted the historical fulfillment of the virgin birth.

Virgin Birth

d. John 1:14, Romans 1:3, Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Timothy 3:16, and Hebrews 2:14 among many others showed that the results of the virgin birth continue forever.

Virgin Birth

7. The virgin conception and **birth** made salvation possible.
 - a. The virgin birth allowed the pre-existent Son of God to become man without ceasing to be **God**.
 - b. Without the virgin birth, we would have a **sinful** savior unqualified to provide salvation.

Virgin Birth

- c. If the biblical doctrine of the virgin birth is not historically true, we can believe no other doctrine in the Bible, including salvation.

Two Branches of Messianic Data

Divine Nature Data

1 Chron. *Psalms* *Isaiah* *Jeremiah*
17:10b-14 *80:17* *9:6-7* *23:6*

Old Testament History

Genesis *Deut.* *Jeremiah* *Zechariah*
3:15 *18:15* *23:5* *12:10*

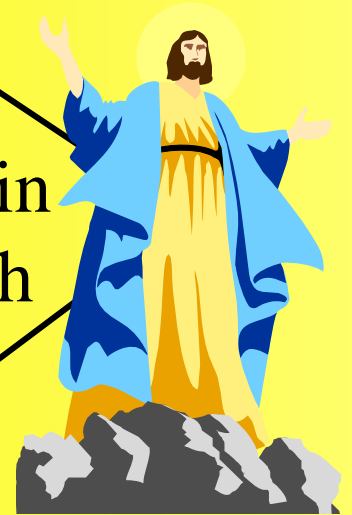
Human Nature Data

Micah
5:2

Isaiah
7:14

Hypostatic
Union

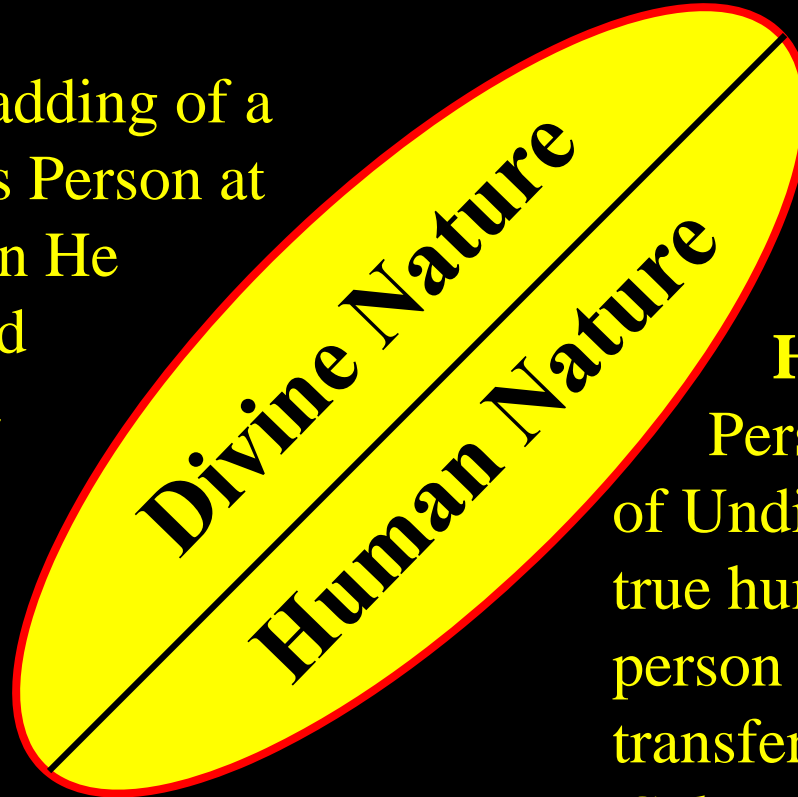
Virgin
Birth



The
God-Man
Jesus Christ

The Theanthropic Person

Kenosis – Christ’s adding of a human nature to His Person at the incarnation when He voluntarily restricted access to His divine nature to handle the problems of the human experience.
Philippians 2:5-11



Hypostatic Union – Personal eternal union of Undiminished Deity and true humanity in ONE person forever without transfer or loss of essence.
Colossians 2:9; 1Timothy 2:5

PANORAMA OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Birth and Early Childhood



Messiah's Birth

V. The birth and early childhood of the Messiah

A. The birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-7

1. Luke 2:1 – Dr. Luke provided precise historical details about the timing of Jesus' birth. He was born in *the fullness of time*. Galatians 4:4
 - a. Luke 2:1a – The Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, was merely a tool in God's hand to move history forward according to His eternal plan.

Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:1b – God used the census to bring Joseph and Mary to the place Messiah was prophesied to be born, Bethlehem, the city of David. Micah 5:2

Messiah's Birth

2. Luke 2:2 – Quirinius was the Roman consul who governed Syria beginning around 7 BC and was responsible for taking the census for tax collection purposes.
 - a. Luke 2:2a – Luke taught Theophilus about the beginning of the Christian faith, which is grounded in verifiable, historical events.

Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:2b – Unlike the “gods” of false religions whose arrivals in history were stated in writing as *once upon a time*, Scripture reveals the birth of the Christ as a real event with actual dates.

Messiah's Birth

3. Luke 2:3 – As a descendant of David, Joseph's ancestral hometown was Bethlehem.
4. Luke 2:4 – The journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, known as the House of Bread, was about 145 kilometers (90 miles).
5. Luke 2:5-6 – God's timing was perfect. He had Mary go to Messiah's prophetic place of birth just before Jesus was born, thus literally fulfilling prophecy.



Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem

Messiah's Birth

6. Luke 2:7 – This key verse marks the most important birth in human history.
 - a. Luke 2:7a – *Her firstborn son* was an unusual expression. Normally, the Bible reads, *his firstborn son*.
 - 1) Luke emphasized Jesus' virgin birth.
 - 2) He implied that Mary eventually had other children, which she did. Mark 3:31

Messiah's Birth

3) Luke 2:7b – The Greek word *PHANTE*, meaning manger or crib, could refer to a public feeding trough under the open sky that any shepherd could use to feed his flocks or to a hewn-out place in a cave wall.

Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:7c – The Savior of mankind came into this world in a humble place. Much like the inn which had no place for Jesus, many today choose to have no room for Him in their lives either.

Messiah's Birth

B. The shepherd witnesses – Luke 2:8-20

1. Luke 2:8 – Jews considered shepherds a low class because the uncleanness of their shepherding duties prevented their observance of the Sabbath and other religious regulations placed on all Jews by the Pharisees.
 - a. Luke 2:8a – God selected hardworking men to be the first witnesses to the fact that Messiah had come.

Lake
Huldah

TETRARCHY



Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:8b – Watching the flocks was the responsibility of these shepherds. They probably cared for the temple lambs used in sacrifices. God chose these men whose job would end at Christ's death to witness the birth of the Lamb of God.
- c. Old Testament Flashback: Centuries earlier, David probably watched his father's flock in the same fields. 1 Samuel 16:11, 17:15

Messiah's Birth

2. Luke 2:9a – The angel who appeared to the shepherds may have been Gabriel since he also brought news of the Messiah to Mary and Joseph.
 - a. Luke 2:9b – *The glory of the Lord* refers to the Shekinah glory that had left Israel over 500 years before when Ezekiel saw it departing the temple. Ezekiel 10:4, 18-19, 11:22-23

Messiah's Birth

- 1) Old Testament Flashback: Exodus 40:34-35 – The glory that had appeared in the Tabernacle now manifested itself to the shepherds.
- 2) For more than 500 years, the nation Israel had been without a visible sign of the Shekinah glory of God's presence among them. John 1:14

Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:9c – The presence of the glory of God frightened the shepherds.

Messiah's Birth

3. Luke 2:10-12 – The angel gave God's message to the shepherds.
 - a. Luke 2:10a – The angel commanded them to stop fearing because the Messiah had come!
 - b. Luke 2:10b – The angel announced this joyful news to the shepherds, but the news benefited everyone.

Messiah's Birth

- c. Luke 2:11a – The *city of David* reminded the shepherds of 2 Samuel 7:16, the Davidic Covenant, one of Luke's emphases.
- d. Luke 2:11b – These three titles summarized Jesus' work.
 - 1) Savior – He would pay the penalty of sin for everyone. 1 John 2:2

Messiah's Birth

- 2) Christ – He was the long awaited Messiah, the Anointed One. Isaiah 61:1-3. The title Christ is an anglicized Greek term.
- 3) Lord – He was the King of Kings, a title emphasizing His authority to rule as Messiah. Psalm 110:1

Messiah's Birth

- e. Luke 2:12 – The baby Jesus was wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger, two unusual signs identifying Him for the shepherds.

Messiah's Birth

4. Luke 2:13 – Praising God for who He is and all He does is the only proper response of His creatures, including angels.
5. Luke 2:14 – The content of the angelic praise song
 - a. Luke 2:14a – Praise to God whose dwelling place is in Heaven

Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:14b – Praise to God for the true peace Jesus would bring through His work of salvation. (Zacharias's praise had focused on national peace.)
- c. Luke 2:14c – Those who believe in Christ have His righteousness given to them at salvation, making them acceptable to God and thereby making peace between Him and them. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Messiah's Birth

6. Luke 2:15 – The shepherds excitedly discussed the angels' good news.
7. Luke 2:16 – The shepherds eagerly ran to worship the Messiah.
8. Luke 2:17 – God gave the shepherds, a despised class of Jews, the privilege of being the first humans to announce the coming of Messiah.
9. Luke 2:18 – The people were amazed at the shepherds' awesome message.

Messiah's Birth

10. Luke 2:19 – Mary noted every detail and remembered them.

11. Luke 2:20 – The shepherds returned to work, worshipping God for Who He is and all He had done.

a. Luke 2:20a – Because the shepherds understood God's special revelation through the angels, they were able to worship Him in a way that pleased Him.

Messiah's Birth

- b. Luke 2:20b – The shepherds had a greater appreciation for God's grace because they understood His Word.

Birth and Early Childhood

C. Jesus' presentation at the temple – Luke 2:21-38

1. Luke 2:21 – Jesus was born under the Law. His parents were Torah keepers.
 - a. Luke 2:21a – The ritual of circumcision symbolized the Abrahamic Covenant.
Genesis 17

Birth and Early Childhood

1) God demanded that the Jews be set apart to Him in their thinking, not just by the circumcision ritual.

Deuteronomy 10:16

2) Deuteronomy 30:6 suggests the difference between positional and experiential truth. The Israelites reaped the benefits of their inheritance in the Land only when they obeyed God.

Birth and Early Childhood

- a) At the moment of salvation, the believer is positionally separated from the flesh. Romans 6:4-7
- b) However, the believer experiences the benefits of this freedom from domination by the Sin Nature only when he walks according to the Holy Spirit. Romans 6:10-13, 8:12-13

Birth and Early Childhood

- b. Luke 2:21b – Since Jesus was born the Savior (Luke 2:11), He was given a name that described the role He would fulfill as Savior. Matthew 1:21
- c. Luke 2:21c – Luke emphasized Joseph and Mary's obedience to Gabriel's instructions as well as to the Law itself.

Birth and Early Childhood

2. Luke 2:22a – The ritual of purification mentioned here had two connotations.
 - a. Leviticus 12:2-8 – Purification was practical for health and hygiene.
 - b. Psalm 51:5 – Purification was a reminder of the fall of man through sin and his need for cleansing from it.

Birth and Early Childhood

3. Luke 2:22b – *The days of their purification...were completed* in forty days.
 - a. A mother was defiled for seven days until the circumcision of her son and was ceremonially unclean for 33 more days, for a total of 40 days of impurity.
 - b. Deuteronomy 8:2 – The number 40 in Scripture is connected to purification or testing.

Birth and Early Childhood

- c. Genesis 7:17 – Rain fell on the earth for forty days to bring about the Flood by which God purified the earth by destroying everyone who had rebelled against Him.

Birth and Early Childhood

4. Luke 2:22c – In obedience to another part of the Mosaic Law, Joseph and Mary presented Jesus in the temple when He was six weeks old.
5. Luke 2:23 - Every first-born Jewish son was redeemed by a temple sacrifice as a memorial (a reminder) to God's sparing of all Jewish families when they left Egypt. Exodus 13:2-12. Today, communion reminds us of Christ's work to redeem us from sin.

Birth and Early Childhood

6. Luke 2:24a – Mary and Joseph were too poor to buy a lamb in the temple, yet they brought The Lamb of God to the temple.
John 1:29
7. Luke 2:24b – The Lord's relationship to the Law was important to His saving ministry.
 - a. Galatians 4:4 – Jesus was born under the Law.

Birth and Early Childhood

- b. John 8:46 – Jesus rejected man’s religious traditions but obeyed God’s Law exactly.
- c. Galatians 3:13 – Jesus bore the curse of the Law (death) for us, thereby redeeming us from death.

Birth and Early Childhood

8. Luke 2:25-35 – Simeon confidently awaited the coming of Messiah.
 - a. Luke 2:25-27 – Six facts about Simeon
 - 1) Righteous – Simeon was a believer in the Promised Seed; therefore, he was positionally righteous (justified, saved from the penalty of sin).

Birth and Early Childhood

- 2) Devout – Simeon lived a consistent lifestyle of obedience to the Lord and, therefore, was experientially righteous (sanctified).
- 3) Looking – As a diligent student of the Hebrew Scriptures, Simeon looked for the imminent coming of Messiah.

Birth and Early Childhood

- a) Daniel 9:25 – Simeon knew he was living in the time of Christ's visitation because he understood Daniel's prophecy and had counted forward 483 years from one of the three decrees that had returned the Jewish remnant to Israel.

Birth and Early Childhood

b) Nehemiah 2:1-8 – In 444 BC, the decree that allowed Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem to rebuild its wall started the clock for Daniel's 70 weeks (490 years).

Birth and Early Childhood

- 4) *The Holy Spirit upon him* – Simeon was led by the Spirit of God.
- 5) *Revealed to him* – God promised Simeon that he would see the Messiah before he died. Simeon believed God; and just as God promised, he saw the Messiah in the temple. Hebrews 11:6

Birth and Early Childhood

6) *He came* – God the Holy Spirit led Simeon to the temple the day Joseph and Mary came to present their Son to God, His Father.

Birth and Early Childhood

- b. Luke 2:28-32 – Simeon’s statements reflected his thorough knowledge of God and of the role of Messiah.
 - 1) Luke 2:28 – Simeon rejoiced when he saw the Messiah.
 - 2) Luke 2:29 – Simeon recognized that God always keeps His Word.

Birth and Early Childhood

- 3) Luke 2:30 – Simeon recognized Jesus as the Redeemer sent to solve the world's sin problem. Because he studied Scripture, he had the right focus about the newborn baby.
- 4) Luke 2:31 – Simeon recognized God's work behind the scenes in preparing the world for the coming of Messiah.

Birth and Early Childhood

- 5) Luke 2:32 – Simeon recognized that God's salvation light was not just for the Jews but for the Gentiles as well.

Birth and Early Childhood

- c. Luke 2:33 – Simeon’s words filled Mary and Joseph with amazement.
- d. Luke 2:34-35 – God used Simeon to speak to Mary.
 - 1) Luke 2:34a – Jesus would bring salvation to the Israel but would pronounce judgment on those who would reject Him.

Birth and Early Childhood

- 2) Luke 2:34b – Most Israelites would reject and stand against the Messiah.
- 3) Luke 2:35a – One day, Mary's soul would be pierced through (*deep anguish*) as with a sword (a Thracian javelin). John 19:25
- 4) Luke 2:35b – Christ's being forces everyone to make a decision about Him.

Birth and Early Childhood

9. Luke 2:36-38 – The faithful widow Anna also awaited Messiah's coming.
 - a. Luke 2:36a – Anna, a prophetess, was confident the Messiah would come soon.
 - b. Luke 2:36b-37a – Anna had been a widow for over fifty years.

Birth and Early Childhood

- c. Luke 2:37b – Anna had dedicated her life to service in the temple while she confidently awaited the coming of Messiah.
- d. Luke 2:38 – Like the shepherds, Anna praised God with thanksgiving for His provision of salvation.

How do we wait for Messiah?

How do we wait for Messiah?



DIATARASSO
“to confuse, perplex”

DIALOGIZOMAI
“to reason thoroughly”

Mary waited with humility.

Luke 1:26-38

How do we wait for Messiah?



DIENTHUMEOMAI
“to ponder”

Joseph waited in obedience to God’s revealed will.

Matthew 1:18-25

How do we wait for Messiah?



DIAKAIOS
“righteous”

EULABES
“devout”

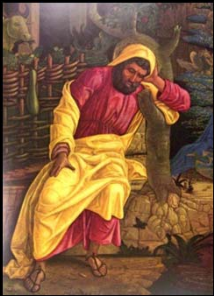
Luke 2:25-35

Simeon waited with devout expectation.

How do we wait for Messiah?



Like Mary, we must wait with humility of thinking – *Philippians 2:5*



Like Joseph, we must wait with patient obedience – *1 Peter 1:14-15*.



Like Simeon, we must wait with confident expectation – *Titus 2:13*.