

“A VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD”

The miraculous birth of Jesus is an essential component to salvation. The prophet Isaiah foretold, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (Isa. 7:14). Immanuel means “God with us” (Mat. 1:23). An angel appeared to Joseph saying, “thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins” (Mat. 1:21). The miraculous virgin birth is proof that God is with us. It is also evidence that Jesus lived long before He came to earth. He is eternal. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made...And the Word was made 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 1:1-3, 14). When questioned by the Jews, “Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I Am” (John 8:58). Jesus had no earthly father. When Mary was told that she would conceive and bring forth a son, she asked, “how shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:34-35). The miraculous virgin birth of Jesus means, “neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Salvation can be found in no man who has an earthly father; salvation is only found in the One born of a virgin (Mat. 1:21). The birth of Jesus evinces God’s love for us, “for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Sadly, the birth of Jesus has been relegated to nothing more than a “play,” or “cantata.” Many celebrate Jesus’ birthday on December 25th, though Biblical and historical evidence shows that Jesus was most likely born in the Spring or Fall when shepherds would have been “abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:18). God did not reveal to man the date of Jesus’ birth. God did not establish a memorial for Jesus’ birth, rather He did so for Jesus’ death. The Biblical pattern established by God is that “upon the first day of the week” (Acts 20:7) Christians partook of the Lord’s supper to remember “the Lord's death till He come (1 Cor. 11:26).

Let us be thankful to God every day for the birth of Jesus. Let us celebrate His birth by obeying His commands (John 14:15; 12:48) and remaining faithful to Him unto the end (Rev. 2:10).

- *Brad Green*