

THE MEANING OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH/CONCEPTION: JESUS WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS

Genesis 5; Matthew 1

I. THE BOOK OF THE GENESIS OF JESUS CHRIST (Matthew 1:1)

A. Matthew's Gospel begins with same Greek phrase as the Greek of Genesis 5:1 (also Gen.2:4).

1. Matthew 1:1 – “The Book of the Genesis of _____” (**Bivblo" genevsew"** **jlhsou` Cristou` uiJou` Dau;d uiJou` jAbraavm)** (Matthew 1:1)
2. “The book of the Genesis of _____” (**Au{th hJ bivblo" genevsew" ajnqrwvwn)** (Gen.5:1)

B. A comparison of Matthew 1:1 with Genesis 5:1 indicates that Matthew is comparing and contrasting Jesus Christ with Adam.

1. Explicit parallels between Jesus and Adam are found in 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:12-21.
 - a. Adam sinned and died.
 - b. If we are in Christ, we will be made alive.
2. Jesus was born so that He might die. Jesus didn't die for His sins, Jesus died to save His people from their sins.
3. The parallel between Matthew 1 and Genesis 5 teaches us that there are only two types of people in this world: Those who have been born of the first Adam, and those who are born again, who have trusted in Jesus and who have been saved from their sins.

Q.16

Did all mankind fall in Adam's first transgression?

The covenant being made with Adam, not only for himself, but for his posterity; all mankind, descending from him by ordinary generation, sinned in him, and fell with him, in his first transgression. (Gen. 2:16–17, Rom. 5:12, 1 Cor. 15:21–22)

II. THE BIRTHS OF ADAM AND JESUS WERE UNLIKE OURS

A. Adam didn't have a human mother or a father (cf. Luke 3:38). Matthew's genealogy shows that Jesus did not have a human father either.

1. Matthew's genealogy shows that Jesus did not descend from Adam by *ordinary* generation (cf. Q.16 of the Shorter Catechism).

B. Thirty-eight times in Matthew 1, we come across the phrase, “father of...” (More literally “begot”)

C. After the repetition “father of”, thirty-eight times, we would normally expect to read that Joseph was the father of Jesus. But we read instead that Joseph was the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born.

1. Mary didn't conceive Jesus through union with Joseph (Matthew 1:18).
2. Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).
3. The Greek word for the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit is the same word used earlier thirty-nine times and translated “the father of/begot” (Matthew 1:20).

D. Jesus is called the “Son of God” in Scripture because His Father was God/the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20 with Matthew 3:17; **Luke 1:35**).

Americans are three times as likely to believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus (83 percent) as in evolution (28 percent).

E. The virgin conception of Jesus was the inception of the New Creation.

III. WHY WAS THE WORD MADE FLESH AND BORN OF A WOMAN BUT NOT BORN OF A MAN?

- A. Jesus was born to save His people from their sins (**Matthew 1:21 with Matthew 26:28**).
- B. The Gospel is not for “good” people. It is not the healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick (Matthew 9:12).
- C. The Kingdom of God is filling up with “hard core” sinners.

What group of people do Christians have a reputation for disliking the most? Suppose we were to take a survey of non-Christians, and ask them, “Who do you think Christians loathe most?” What kinds of answers do you think they would give?

From your understanding of Scripture, whom did Jesus get along with least? What kinds of people tended to flock to Him?

Do you see a problem with this?

- D. The Virgin conception of Jesus is like the cross. It is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those of us who are being saved it is the wisdom of God and the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:20-25).

The heart of the Gospel is that Jesus would save His people from their sins:
“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst” (1 Timothy 1:15).

QUESTIONS FOR SABBATH DISCUSSION & MEDITATION:

Take what you have learned this morning and make it into a prayer for yourself. Have you trusted in Jesus to save you from your sins? Has Jesus delivered you from a sinful lifestyle? Are you living the life of a disciple by following Jesus? Commit yourself in prayer to all of these things.

How is Matthew’s Gospel a continuation of Genesis?

How were the “births” of Adam and Jesus different from ours?

Many liberal “Christians” deny the Virgin Conception/Birth of Jesus. How would you show them from Matthew 1 that this is what the early church believed? What would you say to them to show that the hope of Christianity is rooted in the Virgin Conception/Birth?

What was the purpose of the Virgin Birth/Conception?

Why couldn’t Jesus save us from our sins if He was not born of the Virgin Mary?

What can you do to have the reputation of Jesus: A friend of sinners? How can you, without sinning, reach sinners with the message that Jesus was born to die so that He could “save His people from their sins”?

