

"BEHOLD THE VIRGIN"

LUKE 1:26-38

INTRO: During the Christmas Season we hear a great deal about the **VIRGIN BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**. In fact, we even sing about it in some of the **MORE KNOWN CHRISTMAS CAROLS** LIKE **"SILENT NIGHT,"** and others. **But do we ever stop to think of the SIGNIFIANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH?** Certainly, we should focus on it and solidify its reality in our convictions because without the **VIRGIN BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, OUR SALVATION WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.** You see, the sin nature of humanity is passed down through the male gender. Had Christ been born through the union between Mary and Joseph, He would have been born in sin, just like the rest of us, and thus would have been disqualified to be the **SAVIOR OF THE WORLD**. Practically from the time it occurred, the **VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST** has been under attack by unbelievers and liberal theologians, and probably more so these days than ever. But the **VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL DOCTRINES OF SCRIPTURE THAT MUST BE SOLIDIFIED IN OUR SYSTEM OF BELIEF AND PRACTICE.** My subject today is: **"BEHOLD THE VIRGIN."**

OBSERVATION: ONE CANNOT BE A BIBLICIST AND A TRUE CHILD OF GOD AND DENY THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST. WHY?

- Because the BIBLE TEACHES IT – Luke 1:27
- Because it is a part of the DOCTRINE OF CHRIST – 2 John 9-11

I. THE PROPHESED VIRGIN – ISAIAH 7:14

A. Predicted in 742 BC by the Prophet Isaiah – Isaiah 7:14

-The Hebrew word for **"VIRGIN"** is **"ALMAH"** and can only be translated **"VIRGIN,"** not **"YOUNG WOMAN"** like various liberal theologians teach.

B. Presented to Joseph by the Angel of the Lord – Matthew 1:20-23

-The Greek word for **"VIRGIN"** is **"PARTHANOS"** and can only be translated **"VIRGIN,"** not **"YOUNG WOMAN"** like various liberal theologians teach.

C. Pronounced by the Angel Gabriel to Mary – Luke 1:26,27

NOTE: The repetition of the word **"VIRGIN"** in scripture solidifies the reality of the necessity of the **VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST**. Liberal theologians, pastors and Bible translations have discounted and denied the **VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST**, but without it, **THERE IS NO VALID SAVIOR AND NO CERTAIN SALVATION!**

II. THE PREFERRED VIRGIN – LUKE 1:27

A. The Anticipation of the Virgin Birth

-Perhaps every young Jewish virgin from Isaiah's prophesy wondered if she would be the virgin of choice by God. **But there was only to be one – Mary!**

B. The Actuality of the Virgin Birth

NOTE: The Bible says, **"THE VIRGIN'S NAME WAS MARY."** The name Mary has two etymological meanings. **"BELOVED"** and **"SORROW."** Truly Mary, the mother of Christ was both. She was beloved and went through much sorrow!

1. Mary was a humble village peasant woman from Nazareth
2. Mary was of the Tribe of Judah and the Line of David
3. Mary was the one God chose from eternity past to birth His Son.

III. THE PERFECT VIRGIN – LUKE 1:28,29

A. Mary was **GRACED BY GOD – "HIGHLY FAVORED."**

B. Mary was **EMPOWERED BY GOD – "THE LORD IS WITH THEE"**

C. Mary was **BLESSED BY GOD – "BLESSED ART THOU AMONG WOMEN."**

NOTE: **GOD PREPARED A SPECIAL WOMAN, TO FULFILL A SPECIAL TASK OF BRINGING A SPECIAL PERSON INTO THE WORLD TO PROVIDE A SPECIAL SALVATION FOR ALL MANKIND – HIS NAME IS JESUS!**

IV. THE PRIMED VIRGIN – LUKE 1:30-37

- A. Gabriel Explained to Mary her Favor with God – Vs. 30
- B. Gabriel Explained to Mary what was to Occur – Vs. 31
- C. Gabriel Explained to Mary the Greatness of her Son Jesus – Vss. 32,33
- D. Gabriel Explained to Mary the manner of her Conception – Vss. 34-37

NOTE: Mary's question in verse 34 was not one of **DOUBT**, but one of **AMAZEMENT** and **INTEREST**. **"HOW SHALL THIS BE, SEEING I KNOW NOT A MAN?"**

NOTE: Gabriel's answer was **CLEAR AND COMPLETE**. – **"THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST (THE ETERNAL FATHER GOD) SHALL OVERSHADOW THEE."**

THE PULPIT COMMENTARY SAYS:

"THE SON OF GOD WAS CONCEIVED IN THE WOMB OF A WOMAN, NOT AFTER THE MANNER OF MEN, BUT BY THE SINGULAR, POWERFUL, INVISIBLE, IMMEDIATE OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHEREBY A VIRGIN WAS, BEYOND THE LAW OF NATURE, ENABLED TO CONCEIVE, AND THAT WHICH WAS CONCEIVED IN HER WAS ORIGINALLY AND COMPLETELY SANCTIFIED."

NOTE: The entire miracle was summarized by Gabriel when he said in verse 37:

"FOR WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE."

V. THE PASSIVE VIRGIN – LUKE 1:38

NOTE: The words of Gabriel to Mary were not a command. The part she had to play had no demands upon her. All she had to do was to **consent to the DIVINE OFFER...AND SHE DID VERY WILLINGLY!**

- A. Mary said, **"BEHOLD THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD."**
-Mary recognized herself as being a **SERVANT OF THE LORD!**
- B. Mary said, **"BE IT UNTO ME ACCORDING TO THY WORD."**
 - 1. Mary was Submissive – NO REBELLION!
 - 2. Mary was Willing – NO REFUSAL!
 - 3. Mary was Ready – NO HESITATION!

LESSON/APPLICATION

What Does All of this Mean to Me?

- 1) God always has a **PERFECT PLAN**.
- 2) God's **PERFECT PLAN** is not dependent upon natural humanity.
- 3) God's **PERFECT PLAN** is impossible for mankind to accomplish.
- 4) God's **PERFECT PLAN** will only be accomplished by God, through us, as we submit to His **WILL, WORD AND WAY!**