"THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST" MATTHEW 1:18-25

<u>INTRO:</u> Perhaps the most significant theme of Christmas is <u>THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST!</u> In fact, <u>THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST</u> is EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT in reference to our SALVATION! Many songs in the Christian hymnal speak of the VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST.

- 1) SILENT NIGHT: "Round you VIRGIN, mother and child."
- 2) THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR: "For the VIRGIN'S sweet boy is the Lord of the Earth."
- 3) HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING: "Offspring of a VIRGIN'S womb"
- 4) GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN: "This day is born a savior of a pure VIRGIN bright."
- IN ADDITION to the songs, the SCRIPTURE clearly speaks of the VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST! (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23). STILL there are those who reject or deny the VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST.
- 1) The ARIANIANS Teach that the word "VIRGIN" of Isaiah 7:14 should read "YOUNG WOMAN" and that at some point in time God CREATED Jesus which would take away from His deity.
- 2) The EBIONITES Taught that Jesus was Joseph's biological son and, because Jesus' righteousness, God chose Him to be a prophet.
- 3) The GNOSTICS Taught that God could not inhabit a material body; therefore Jesus only APPEARED to be human.
- 4) The LIBERAL THEOLOGIANS Deny the VIRGIN BIRTH because they do not believe in DIVINE MIRACLES.
- 5) The FALSE TRANSLATIONS OF SCRIPTURE Replace the word "VIRGIN" with "YOUNG WOMAN." This was particularly propagated by the REVISED STANDARD VERSION.

The Truth is that THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST is crucial to WHO JESUS IS, without which HE COULD NOT BE OUR SAVIOR and without which WE WOULD HAVE NO SALVATION! *WHY IS THIS THE CASE?*

I. JESUS HAD A HEAVENLY ORIGIN

- A. If Joseph was Jesus' father, then Jesus would have ONLY been human!
- B. If Joseph was Jesus' father, then Jesus would NOT be the SON OF GOD!
- C. If Joseph was Jesus' father, then Jesus would have had an earthly beginning rather than an ETERNAL HEAVENLY EXISTENCE!

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 1:16; John 1:1; John 8:58

<u>APPLICATION:</u> The VIRGIN BIRTH is CRUCIAL to the DOCTRINE of Jesus being THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD, AND THUS GOD HIMSELF.

II. JESUS HAD A SINLESS NATURE

- A. If Jesus had a HUMAN FATHER, He would have inherited the SIN NATURE!
- B. If Jesus had the SIN NATURE, He could NOT have been our PERFECT SACRIFICE on the CROSS!

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:12,17,18; Hebrews 7:25,26; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5

<u>APPLICATION:</u> If Jesus was the Son of Joseph, and not born of the VIRGIN BIRTH, then His SINLESS CHARACTER would only be a MYTH!

III. JESUS WAS THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

- A. If Jesus had a HUMAN FATHER, He could not have been the PERFECT SACRIFICE FOR OUR SIN!
- B. If Jesus could not have offered a PERFECT SACRIFICE, we would have NO SALVATION AT ALL!

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 12:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:14

<u>APPLICATION:</u> If Jesus would have had ANY SIN AT ALL, He could NOT have provided the PERFECT SACRIFICE for us! But because He came into the world by way of the VIRGIN BIRTH He was qualified and able to provide THE PERFECT SACRIFICE for our sins without spot or blemish.

IV. JESUS WAS THE UNIQUE SON OF GOD

- A. If Jesus would have come into the world through natural birth like the rest of us, He would have had NO UNIQUENESS at all in relation to GOD THE FATHER!
- B. If Jesus would not have the UNIQUENESS He does through the VIRGIN BIRTH then NO PART OF HIS LIFE would have been UNIQUE! Jesus' life is MIRACULOUS because of His UNIQUENESS!
 - 1. His Birth was a Miracle
 - 2. His Public Ministry was a Miracle
 - 3. His Sinless Life was a Miracle
 - 4. His Voluntary Death was a Miracle

- 5. His Glorious Resurrection was a Miracle
- 6. His Ascension Back into Heaven was a Miracle

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:26-35; Galatians 4:4

<u>APPLICATION:</u> The VIRGIN BIRTH of Jesus Christ guaranteed His UNIQUENESS that equipped Him to be our SAVIOR.

V. JESUS WAS BIBLICALLY CORRECT AT HIS BIRTH

- A. If Jesus was not truly BORN OF A VIRGIN, then the BIBLE WOULD BE WRONG!
- B. If the BIBLE IS WRONG on the VIRGIN BIRTH, then it could be wrong on other subjects as well! THE BIBLE IS ALWAYS RIGHT!

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

<u>APPLICATION:</u> The ACCURACY of SCRIPTURE validates the REALITY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST! The Bible says Christ was born of the VIRGIN MARY, *AND HE WAS!*

CONCLUSION: The Bible says in Luke 2:11, "FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD" Without the VIRGIN BIRTH, having a SAVIOR would NOT have been POSSIBLE! In fact, if the VIRGIN BIRTH did not occur:

- 1) God would be a liar.
- 2) The Bible would NOT be true.
- 3) Jesus would be a fake.
- 4) Our Salvation would be a sham.

BUT THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST DID OCCUR! SO, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?

- 1) For those of you who are unsaved, remember that God sent His Son Jesus Christ for you! Receive Him as your Savior.
- 2) For those of us who are saved, let's FOCUS on what God has done for us during this time of the year and do as the Magi did as recorded in Matthew 2:11 which says, "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."

DURING THIS CHRISTMAS TIME, WORSHIP CHRIST AND GIVE HIM YOUR TREASURES! THAT IS THE REASONABLE WAY TO RESPOND TO THE SAVIOR GOD GAVE US IN JESUS CHRIST!