

**A CHRISTMAS SERIES**  
**“A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MESSIAH”**  
**PART THREE**  
**“THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH”**  
**MATTHEW 1:16-25**

**INTRO:** So far in our study on A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MESSIAH, we have observed THE NEED FOR THE MESSIAH and THE PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH. In those two studies we reviewed that the sinful condition of mankind required the Messiah for mankind’s redemption and the fulfilled prophecies of the Messiah prove that Jesus Christ is all that He and scripture says He is. Today we shall focus directly on the BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH and in doing so will see the necessity of the VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST and what His INCARNATION teaches us about God and His WORLD-WIDE REDEMPTION PLAN.

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**I. THE REALITY OF THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH – VSS. 16,23**

A. The Birth of the Messiah was not a Common Birth.

1. The birth of the Messiah, the way He was to be born (of a virgin) and the place He was to be born (Bethlehem of Judea) was predicted hundreds of years before it happened. That itself made it uncommon.

2. How much His virgin birth was known in His day is not known. But we are certainly aware of it today, even though there are those who do not believe it. **THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST IS A “LEVEL ONE” DOCTRINE IN CHRISTOLOGY.**

B. The Birth of the Messiah was a Miraculous Birth (As all births are, by the way). Christ was born of the VIRGIN MARY.

1. The Biblical Presentation of the Virgin Birth

a. The VIRGIN BIRTH was the means of the INCARNATION and once it was accomplished, the fact that Jesus is in the flesh is His lasting state. He is now in His RESURRECTED BODY in which He will remain for ever.

b. When the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear the Messiah, she proclaimed (the language is strong and expressive), **“HOW SHALL THIS BE, SEEING I KNOW NOT A MAN”** in Luke 1:34. At that point Gabriel said in essence, **“YOU WON’T NEED A MAN BECAUSE THE SPIRIT SHALL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST SHALL OVERSHADOW YOU”** in Luke 1:35. This statement of Gabriel has a two-fold effect:

1) It reveals the method of Christ’s conception – Of the Holy Spirit.

2) It reveals the Divine Generation of Christ – He was of God the Father.

c. Gabriel ended His conversation with Mary by saying, **“FOR WITH GOD NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE”** in Luke 1:37. **THAT IS SO TRUE AND ALWAYS WILL BE TRUE!**

2. The Biblical Proof of the Virgin Birth

a. The Prophecy and the Fulfillment – Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:23

b. The Pattern of the Genealogy of Matthew 1:1-17

**OBSERVE:** In Matthew 1:1-17 there is a list of people who “BEGAT” others. But notice the change in the language of verse 16. The phrase **“OF WHOM WAS BORN JESUS, WHO IS CALLED THE CHRIST”** is significant. **“OF WHOM”** is FEMINE SINGULAR, indicating that Jesus was CLEARLY born of the VIRGIN MARY **ONLY**, and NOT of Mary and Joseph.

**NOTE:** In liberal Christianity the DOCTRINE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST has been reduced to a “third level” doctrine. BUT IT IS A “FIRST LEVEL” doctrine biblically, without which Christ would not have been the legitimate Savior. Consider:

1) The Virgin Birth resulted in the GOD-MAN union meaning that Christ was FULLY GOD and PERFECT HUMAN BEING, united in ONE person for ever! **This is called “THE HYPOSTATIC UNION.”**

2) The Virgin Birth qualified Christ to be THE ADEQUATE SAVIOR. The Savior had to be HUMAN in order to die, because God cannot die. But He also had to be GOD in order to make His death an **EFFECTIVE PAYMENT FOR SIN.**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

**II. THE RESULT OF THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH – VSS. 21-23**

A. The Presentation of the Savior – Vs. 21

1. The Name **“JESUS”** comes from the name **“JOSHUA”** meaning **“THE LORD IS SALVATION.”**

2. The Point is: **JESUS ALONE IS SALVATION!** (Note Acts 4:12)

3. There are only TWO RELIGIOUS PATHS in the world (Matthew 7:13.14)

a. “The Broad Way” of salvation that leads to eternal death.

- b. “The Narrow Way” of salvation that leads to eternal life.
- B. The Presentation of Fulfilled Prophecy – Vs. 22
  - 1. This is based on Isaiah 7:14 predicted in 742 BC
  - 2. The Gospel of Matthew points out fulfilled OT prophecies of Christ no less than a dozen times proving the Jesus is the Messiah.
- C. The Presentation of Who God Is – Vs. 23
  - “EMMANUEL – GOD WITH US”
  - Compare John 1:14-18
    - 1. Christ revealed the Glory of God – John 1:14
      - a. Seen in the Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-8
      - b. Seen in attributes, characteristics, goodness, mercy and wisdom of Christ.
    - 2. Christ revealed the Grace of God – John 1:16
      - A superabundance of Grace displayed only by God toward mankind through Christ, especially to believers – Ephesians 2:7.
    - 3. Christ revealed the Truth of God – John 1:17
      - All that God is and all that God teaches is ABSOLUTE TRUTH.
    - 4. Christ revealed the Declaration of God – Vs. 18
      - The word “DECLARED” means to “EXEGETE” or to “INTERPRET” which means that JESUS’ PERSONALITY totally explains WHO GOD IS. Cp. John 14:8-10.

ILLUSTRATION:

### III. THE RESPONSE TO THE BIRTH THE MESSIAH

- A. Receive Christ as Savior
  - 1. Without which there is no forgiveness of sin.
  - 2. Without which there is no eternal life.
  - 3. Without which there is no relationship with God
- B. Rejoice in Fulfilled Prophecy
  - 1. Through which we see the Genuineness of the Messiah.
  - 2. Through which we have Real Hope for the future.
- C. Recognize Christ as God
  - 1. Through Proper Acknowledgment – Colossians 2:9
  - 2. Through Proper Worship – John 4:24

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON/APPLICATION:

- 1) Take a closer look at the Messiah, Jesus Christ to see His DIETY AND REDEMPTIVE WORK for YOU.
- 2) Believe everything the Bible says about Christ as the Messiah without any doubt.
- 3) Share the message of the Messiah with others.
- 4) Receive Christ as your personal Messiah if you have not already done so.