

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah – Pt. 1

Matthew 1:18–25

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Main Idea: In Matthew 1:18–25, Matthew records the events surrounding Jesus' birth because these events also prove His qualifications to be the Messiah. Matthew highlights 5 unique characteristics of Jesus' birth that prove He is the Messiah.

Outline:

- I. His Virgin Conception (18–20)

A First-century Jewish Marriage

1. The betrothal or *kiddushin*

- Man is a “husband” (19); woman a “wife,” even though marriage not consummated
- Sexual sin was adultery; guilty could be stoned (Deut. 24)
- A binding contract only ended by divorce

2. The wedding or *huppah*

- About a year after the engagement
- Man brought bride to his home for the wedding (cf. 25:1–12)
- A feast (as many as seven days) & the consummation of the marriage

Joseph's Only Three Options

1. He could marry Mary.
2. He could disgrace Mary publicly.
3. He could divorce Mary privately.

The Virgin Conception and Birth

Not the cause of...

1. Jesus' deity
2. Jesus' sinlessness

Necessary for two reasons...

1. The virgin birth was the only way the Second Person of the Trinity could add a human nature without becoming two persons.

The Definition of the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)

“He is of the same reality as God as far as His deity is concerned and of the same reality as we ourselves as far as His humanness is concerned; thus, like us in all respects, sin only excepted.”

Biblical/Theological Questions:

1. Read Matthew 1:18–20. Why is the miracle of the virgin *birth* better understood as the miracle of the virgin *conception*? Discuss.
2. Read Matthew 1:20. Why does the angel refer to Joseph as the “Son of *David*”? What theological realities does this allude to (see 2 Sam. 7:12–17; Matt. 1:1, 16) Discuss.
3. Although Jesus wasn’t physically born of Joseph, how is He still a *human* son of David (see Mary’s genealogy in Luke 3:23, 31)?

Application Questions:

1. Joseph and Mary remained sexually pure before marriage. What does this key truth teach us about their commitment to God and to one another? Discuss. What lessons can we learn from their desire to follow the Scripture as it relates to sexuality? Why is it crucial that we hold to the biblical standard for sexuality and keep professing Christians (and the world?) accountable?
2. Why is the humanity of Jesus Christ an essential doctrine of the Christian faith? How does Jesus’ birth narrative establish this foundational truth? How does the humanity of Christ factor into the gospel message (life, death, resurrection)?