

The Gospel of Matthew #4

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Matthew 1:20-23

There are very few references to “virgin conception” in the NT

There are 3 references here in 4 verses

Each touches on a foundational implication of the **virginal conception** for our faith:

I. Our view of _____:

Is it absolutely _____ or not? **v22-23**

A. Quotes from Isa 7:14

Did Scripture foresee a virginal conception?

Or did Matthew twist it to sound like prophecy?

Can we trust Matthew to tell the truth?

B. Attacks on Scripture’s authority on a virginal conception

1. From outside the Church

2. From inside the “Church”

The slippery slope of unbelief:

Unreliable on history → hard practices → hard doctrines → **all** doctrines that we don’t like

Joseph believed the virginal conception because God said it.

Do **you**?

II. Our view of the **Universe**:

Is it _____ or _____? **v20**

“_____ universe”:

“_____ universe”:

v20: consider what an **amazing** supernatural thing virginal conception is!

Contrast parthenogenesis

Joseph believed in an open universe because God said it.

Do **you**? This is the basis for **praying**!

III. Our view of _____

Is He uniquely a sinless second Adam and therefore uniquely eligible to be my Savior—or not? **v21-23**

Two Names given to the incarnate Son of God:

A. v23: _____: because He really is “God with us”

Messiah had to be Mediator: Prophet-Priest-King

A Mediator has to identify with both parties to represent them

Jesus is our Mediator Who is **one in substance** with

GOD ----- **MARY**

B. v21: _____: because He really is our “Savior”

Our Sin Offering had to be free of the sin and curse of Adam inherent in our natures

- He is fully human because born of woman

- He is sinless God because His Father is the Holy Spirit

So He is the unique & perfect sacrifice for my sin.

And yours.

This is the Good News of Matthew’s Christmas story:

- This **Word** is true: trust it
- This **World** is open to His control: trust Him
- This **Womb** contains God-with-us to give new Life: receive Him