

Textbook references Luke 1 as it details the conception and of Christ. Identify key passages within the chapter (and other Scriptures) that indicate the role of the Spirit in the conception, birth and early life of Christ.

In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in the New Testament, the Bible says:

Luke 1

35 The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit** will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

39 A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town ⁴⁰ where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**.

67 John's father Zechariah was filled with the **Holy Spirit**, and he spoke God's message:

Define the doctrinal importance of the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ and its implications to the believer's salvation.

1. Jesus Had A Heavenly Origin

The most important reason to hold the belief in the Virgin Birth concerns Jesus' identity as God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. If Joseph were His true father, then Jesus would be only a human being. He would not be the Son of God as Scripture clearly states. He would have had His beginning in time rather than eternally existing. As the Bible states,

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God (John 1:1).

Thus the Virgin Birth is crucial to Jesus being the Son of God.

2. Jesus Had A Sinless Nature

A second reason why the Virgin Birth is important concerns the sinless character of Christ. If Jesus had a human father, then He would have inherited a sinful nature as the rest of us have. The Bible says.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, . . . thus death spread to all, because all sinned (Romans 5:12).

To the contrary the Scripture states that Jesus never sinned. Peter wrote,

Who [Jesus] committed no sin, nor was guile found in his mouth (1 Peter 2:22).

John testified.

And you know that he was manifested to take away our sins, and in him there is no sin (1 John 3:5).

If Jesus were the son of Joseph, then His sinless character would only be a myth.

3. Jesus Was The Perfect Sacrifice

A third reason why the Virgin Birth is crucial to the Christian faith concerns our salvation. Without the sinlessness of Christ there would be no salvation. Christ came, according to the Apostle Paul, to save those who were under the law.

But when the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were

under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Galatians 4:4,5).

This echoes Jesus' own statement,

For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost (Luke 19:10).

God required a sacrifice that was without blemish, "Your lamb shall be without blemish" (Exodus 12:5). If Jesus were a sinner in any sense of the word, then He could not provide salvation for us. However, because He came into the world by supernatural means and lived a sinless life, He could be that sacrifice for our sins without spot and without blemish. The Bible makes this clear:

For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

4. It Shows The Uniqueness Of Christ

What the virgin birth does is show the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. No one else has ever come into the world the same way as Jesus. The unique and miraculous nature of Jesus carried on through His entire life. His birth was a miracle, His public

ministry consisted of miracles, Jesus miraculously lived a sinless life, He miraculously came back from the dead, and left this world in a miraculous way. From His entrance into this world until His departure, the life of Jesus Christ was a miracle.

5. The Bible Says So

The fifth reason to believe in the Virgin Birth is because the Bible says so. If Jesus were not actually born of a virgin then the Bible is wrong. If it is wrong concerning the Virgin Birth, then it is possible that it may be in error about other matters. Once the door opens to the possibility of error in Scripture the eventual and logical result is that the entire foundation of the Christian faith will crumble. The doctrine of the Virgin Birth and the credibility of Christianity go hand-in-hand.

Summary

There are at least five reasons why the virgin conception of Christ is an important doctrine. First, it confirms Jesus heavenly origin. Second, it is necessary for His sinless nature. In addition, the

virgin conception was also necessary for Him to be the perfect sacrifice. It also points out the uniqueness of Jesus. Finally, the virgin birth is important because the Bible says that is what happened.