THE VIRGIN BIRTH
THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

- Matthew 1:23

1. Why is it important?
   a. The virgin birth is often combined with the fundamental of the deity of Jesus
   b. It affects the doctrine of the literal interpretation of scripture
   c. It affects the doctrine of Christ’s nature as God
   d. It affects the doctrine of the sinlessness of Jesus
   e. It affects the doctrine of the miracles of Jesus
   f. If it didn’t happen Jesus was illegitimate. – Mat 1:19

2. Scriptural Support
   a. “Her seed” - Genesis 3:15 *skeptics question the event
   b. “a virgin shall conceive” - Isaiah 7:14 *skeptics question the translation
   c. Matthew 1:16 *skeptics question the translation
   d. “he knew her not” – Joseph’s account - Matthew 1:18-25
   e. Mary’s account – Luke 1:26-38
   f. “Joseph and his mother” - Luke 2:33, 43 *skeptics question the translation
   g. “made of a woman” – Gal 4:4
   h. Other miraculous births: Adam, Eve, Isaac (Sarah), Jacob (Rachel), Moses, Samuel(Hannah), John (Elizabeth), Jesus (Mary)

3. Jesus’ Deity and the Virgin Birth
   a. The difference: Jesus is not the Son of God BECAUSE of the virginity of Mary
   b. Incarnation = God becoming flesh – John 1:14
   c. Jesus is not the Son because the Holy Ghost conceived in Mary, he is regardless
   d. The relationship: The virgin birth is like the empty tomb; it is a sign of who he is

4. False Views – Explanations
   a. Jesus was sinless because of the virgin birth – be careful, Jesus was always sinless!
   b. It does not glorify Mary – Luke 1:28-30, 2nd-3rd century Christianity elevated Mary
      ii. The immaculate conception and myths about the birth were popular
   c. It is not the mating of God and a woman – Mormon teaching, pagan ideas
   d. It does not elevate celibacy above marriage – Mat 12:46, Luke 8:19, Mat 13:35-56
   e. It is not an allegory – the events offer no explanation

5. What it Teaches
   a. God’s involvement in Jesus’ birth and salvation – Mat 1:23
   b. A sign of the divinity of Christ – Mat 1:23, but also John 1:13
   c. A sign of the sinlessness of Christ – Heb 4:15, 1 Pet 2:22, 1 John 3:5, 2 Cor 5:21
   d. A picture of God’s grace – John 1:13
   e. The second Adam doctrine – 1 Cor 15:47, Rom 5:12