

Jesus The Messiah: Session 5 - The Coming Messiah (Part 2)

Introduction

Who were the prophets expecting, and what sort of person would He be?

Four important facets of the Messiah's nature and ministry:

- the preexistence of Messiah;
- the Deity of Messiah;
- the Incarnation of Messiah; and,
- the Virgin Birth of the Messiah.

1. The Incarnation

Wherefore when he came into the world, he said, "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you have had no pleasure. Then said I, 'Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do your will, O God.'" (Hebrews 10:5-7)

(A quote from the Septuagint, the Greek version of the OT, 200 B.C.)

The Incarnation is the Christian doctrine that says that Jesus became man. Even though he had always existed as God, Jesus took upon himself the nature of man, and so he became fully God and fully man. Both His human nature and His Divine Nature exist at the same time in one Person. In

theology this is called the **hypostatic union**: two things subsisting in one form.

The Council of Chalcedon, 451 A.D. – in Christ there are two natures, one human and one divine. Each nature retains its own unique properties, and the two natures are united and exist together in one person.

He retains both humanity and divinity: *Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.* (Luke 24:39)

2. The Virgin Birth

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isa. 9:6-7)

A. What is the Virgin Birth? The Virgin Birth is the Christian doctrine that Jesus was born of a virgin. He had no human father; the Second Person of the Godhead took on flesh and was implanted within the womb of the Virgin Mary. *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.* (Isa. 7:14) Septuagint: *parthenos*.

B. What was the mechanism of the Virgin Birth? *"The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."* (Luke 1:35)

C. False Ideas and Doctrines Related to the Virgin Birth

1. *The Supposedly Low State of Scientific Knowledge in Ancient Times*
2. *The Immaculate Conception*
3. *The Perpetual Virginity of Mary*
4. *The Reason for False Marian Doctrines*

D. Why did Christ have to come via virgin birth?

1. *A preincarnate Messiah (the Word of YHWH) must enter the world without the mechanism of human reproduction.*

2. *The Messiah must be a Second Adam for the human race.*

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Cor. 15:21-22)

3. *Messiah needed to avoid the mortality that comes through human fatherhood.*

As we saw, the Bible says *in Adam all die*. Messiah must draw His Fatherhood from another source or else He, too, will be subject to the law of sin and death.

4. Messiah needed to avoid the transmission of sin through human fatherhood.

5. God desired to glorify Jesus Christ and reduce the field of candidates for the office of Messiah. Any candidate for Messiah must somehow avoid the Curse of Jeconiah.

Jeconiah, also known as Coniah or Jehoiachin, was a wicked king whom God cursed. Despite the promise to David that one of his sons would always sit on the throne, here God said that Coniah should be recorded as a childless man even though he had children.

*(24) As I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence;
(25) And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans.
(26) And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die...
(30) Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah. (Jeremiah 22:24-26, 30)*

If Jesus draws His sonship literally from Joseph the husband of Mary, then His claim to Messiahship would be invalidated by the Curse of Coniah. As it is, however, Jesus can claim the legal right of kingship through Joseph and avoid the curse because He is but a foster son to Joseph.

E. Is the Virgin Birth really important?

If the Virgin Birth is not true, then

- Mary was an adulteress and Jesus was illegitimate
- Jesus was not God, but a mere man
- Jesus was a sinner like us and so could never be a sacrifice for sins