

# THE PROOF OF CHRIST AND THE FULLNESS OF TIME

## GALATIANS 04:01–07

### *Introduction*

Some in the churches of Galatia were teaching that a person is saved by law; that is, he is saved by being good and religious and by doing the best he can. Of course, every person...

- should be good, ever striving to be better and better
- should be faithful in worshipping God *in church*
- should do the best he can — always

However, Scripture is clear and forceful: a person is not saved by these things, for no amount of effort, energy or work can make a person perfect. And to be acceptable to God — to be given the right to live with God — a person must be perfect.

How then can man be saved — be justified and made acceptable to God? This passage deals with the issue; it gives the answer. It shows how Christ and the fullness of time prove that a man is justified by faith and not by law nor by works.

I. There was a time when the world was in bondage (vv. 1-3).

II. There was a fullness of time when God delivered the world (vv. 4-7).

### **I. *Galatians 04:01–03 Law: Basic Principles of the World, Misconceptions of God***

There was a time when the world was in bondage. The illustration is brief, yet descriptive: an heir who is a young child is under the care of guardians, trustees or managers until the time appointed for him to receive his inheritance. Until the appointed time arrives, he has no more right to the inheritance than a slave.

The point is striking: there was a time when man was in bondage under the elementary, basic principles of the world. What is meant by the *elementary, basic principles* of the world? Very simply, it means man's *elementary or basic notions and ideas about God and the various ways he tries to approach God*. Letting Scripture interpret Scripture:

- => It means the first principles (the ABC's) of the Word of God, that is, the sacrifices, observances, rituals and ceremonies of the Old Testament (Heb. 5:12).
  - => It means philosophy, the traditions of men and the rudimentary or elementary teachings of men — the ABC approaches of men to God (Col. 2:8).
  - => It means the elements, the heavenly bodies of the universe (2 Pet. 3:10). (There have always been men who tried to rule their lives by the heavenly bodies or astrology and the signs of the zodiac.)
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=> It means the ordinances, rules and regulations of men (Col. 2:20).

=> It means the ceremonial laws, the legal yoke placed upon men as they try to approach God (Acts 15:10).

=> It means the law of the Old Testament, the yoke of slavery (Gal. 5:1; see 4:3).

=> It means the observances of religious days, months and years (Gal. 4:9).

Very simply, the elementary, basic principles of the world refers to all the things that men use to get right with God and to secure the favour and approval of God. It refers to anything that man uses to justify himself before God, any approach to God that is taken by man through his own energy and effort...

- law or works
- church memberships ordinance
- philosophy or religion
- ritual or ceremony
- astrology or science

The point is this: before Christ, all approaches to God were only elementary approaches. No approach was the right approach, for man had only little knowledge of God — an elementary knowledge that required the *discipline and guidance of the law*.

Note a critical point: the Galatians were about to turn back to the elementary, basic principles about God, to their own notions about God (Gal. 4:9-11). Does this mean they were about to turn back to their pagan idolatrous worship? No, that was not what they were about to do. What were they turning back to? The false teachers (Judaizers) in Galatia were teaching that a man was to approach God by the law and works — that a man became acceptable to God by his own efforts, by working and doing as much good as he could.

Of course, this is exactly what all religious people do, no matter their religion: they try to please their god, to secure the god's approval by doing what pleases him. This means that all religions (except Christianity) are religions of works and of law. Therefore, if the Galatians subjected themselves to the law and to a religion of works, they would be *returning* to a life of bondage — the bondage of working and working to get God to pay attention to them and to receive and accept them.

The crucial point is this: there is no difference between seeking God through the law and seeking God through pagan worship. The foundation of all religious seeking (except Christianity) is the same: that of working to keep the laws that please a person's god — that of doing good so that a person's *god* will accept him.

Note that Paul calls man's elementary, basic notions of God weak and miserable principles.

- a. The law and other approaches to God are weak in that they are helpless in saving man. The law itself could only point out man's sin, but it could never justify and make him acceptable to God.

- b. The law and other approaches to God are miserable, that is worthless in saving man. The law itself is meaningless, of no use whatsoever in justifying and making man acceptable to God. It is not the law nor man's works and attempts to be good that saves him.

Note also that Paul illustrates his point by referring to special religious holidays. The point is that ritual, ceremony, and the keeping of religious days will not justify and make a person acceptable before God. Christ and Christ alone — faith in Him — saves a person.

1. Note the results of backsliding, of turning back to the world and seeking to please God by self-effort and self-righteousness.
  - a. A person becomes enslaved in that he tries and tries to please God by keeping the rules of the law, but he finds he cannot. But he still slavishly tries and tries again. However, it is all to no avail, for the man finds himself still in the bondage of sin and death. He still sins and he still dies, and there is no absolute assurance within of eternal life. And it is the lack of assurance, of knowing that one is acceptable to God, which is so enslaving. The question and doubt of living with God gnaws and gnaws at man — always without the sure knowledge and assurance of God's love. Perfect assurance, confidence and security come only through faith in Jesus Christ.
  - b. A person lives a wasted life. Every approach to God fails except faith in Jesus Christ. Every approach leads to death and condemnation; therefore, every life that approaches God by any other means than faith in Jesus Christ is a wasted life.

*Luke 9:62* Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

*Gal 1:6* I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel.

*Gal 3:3* Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

*Gal 4:9* But now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?

*Heb 10:38* "But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him."

*Rev 2:4* Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

However, when everything was ready for the world to come of age and to gain an adult knowledge of God, Christ came to release men from the law and to reveal that man was intended to have a father-son relationship with God. In Christ men are no

longer to be slaves to the law, they are to be sons of God. In Christ they are to enter into their inheritance.

*1 Cor 14:20* Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.

*Eph 4:14* Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.

*Heb 5:12* In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

## II. Galatians 04:04–07 Adoption and Redemption

There was a fullness of time when God delivered the world. This is one of the great passages of Scripture dealing with the mission or work of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Note several significant points.

1. Note that God had prepared the world for the coming of Christ (see *Fullness of Time*, Gal. 4:4).
2. Note that God sent His own Son into the world to deliver men. It was not an angel or some other creature that God sent — nor was it some great leader from among men. It was God's very Son that He sent. God cared and loved men so much that He would send no less than His own Son to deliver men from the terrible condemnation of the law: the bondage of sin and death.

*John 3:16-17* “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

*John 6:38* “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”

*John 7:29* “But I know him because I am from him and he sent me.”

*John 8:42* Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”

*John 9:4* “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.”

*John 10:36-38* “What about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, ‘I am God's Son’? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it,

*even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”*

3. Note that God sent His Son *born of a woman* (genomenon ek gunaikos). He came into the world just as all men do, through a woman. But note the most glorious truth: He was “sent” by God. Jesus Christ was “His Son,” the Son of God. God spoke the Word and the woman conceived miraculously. The Virgin Birth did take place: God’s very own Son has been sent into the world *as a man* to save men. (See *Jesus Christ, Son of God*, Mt. 1:16; *Jesus Christ, Son of God Virgin*, Mt. 1:23; *Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ*, Lk. 1:27; note, 1:34-35. Especially see Lk. 1:27.)

**Luke 1:31** *“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.”*

**John 1:14** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Phil 2:7** *But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

**1 Tim 3:16** *Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

**Heb 2:14-15** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

**1 John 4:2** *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.*

4. Note that God sent His Son born under the law. Jesus Christ had to live under the law in order to secure the perfect righteousness of the law for man. He had to obey the law in every single precept and stand before God as the Perfect and Ideal Man — the Ideal Embodiment of Righteousness. As stated, He had to do what no other person had ever done: secure the Ideal Righteousness and Perfection so that the Ideal and Perfect could stand for all men.

**Rom 8:3-4** *For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.*

**2 Cor 5:21** *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**Heb 4:15** *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.*

**Heb 7:25-26** *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.*

**1 Pet 1:18-19** *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

5. Note why God sent His Son: to redeem men (see note, *Redemption*, Gal. 3:13-14).
6. Note the result of God sending His Son to redeem men.
  - a. Believers are adopted — receive the full rights — as sons of God. When a person believes *in Jesus Christ*, God takes his faith and counts the person as being *in Jesus Christ*. Since Christ is God's Son, the believer is counted as a son of God — all because he is seen as being *in Jesus Christ*. His faith *in Jesus Christ* causes God to cover him with the Sonship of His Son, to adopt him as a son of God. (See notes, *Believers, Position*, pt. 2, Gal. 3:26-27; *Adoption*, Gal. 4:5-6.)

**John 1:12** *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.*

**Rom 8:15** *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”*

**2 Cor 6:17-18** *“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*

**Gal 4:4-6** *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

- b. Believers receive assurance of being accepted by God through the Spirit of His Son. The Spirit of Christ is sent by God to dwell in our hearts and to give us a personal relationship with God. The Spirit of Christ, that is, the Holy Spirit, gives us a fellowship of communication and communion with God: He stirs our hearts to cry out to God as our Father: “Father, Father.”

**Rom 8:16** *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*

**Gal 4:6** *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”*

**1 John 3:24** *Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.*

**1 John 4:13** *We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.*

**1 John 5:6** *This is the one who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.*

- c. Believers are made heirs of God. But note: they are heirs because they are sons of God. Both sonship and heirship are “through Christ” — through faith in Him.

**Rom 8:16-17** *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

**Gal 3:29** *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

**Titus 3:7** *So that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

**Heb 1:14** *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

**Heb 6:17** *Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.*

**1 Pet 1:3-4** *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you. ■*

#### GALATIANS 04: 04 FULLNESS OF TIME

*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law. **Galatians 04:04***

The coming of Christ upon the world scene was not by chance. His coming was under the strategic timing providentially set by God. His coming was not one day before or behind the appointed time (see Mk. 1:15). A child who is placed under the control of

guardians is under their control until “the time set by his father” (Gal. 4:2). God and God alone decided the fullness of time for the coming of Christ. Christ was born of a particular person, at a particular time, in a particular way (incarnation), and under a particular system (the law). He shared the frustration and agony of being subjected to the very system from which He came to save men. The world had been wonderfully prepared for His coming.

1. The law had done its educational work. It had shown through the Jewish nation that men are terrible transgressors and despite all of God’s favour and blessings, men still failed to worship God in love. The world now had a picture of the depraved heart of man. (See Rom. 3:10-18.)
2. The world was full of people spiritually starved. The worship of self, pleasure, gods and philosophical ethics - all had left many empty and barren. The soul was now ready to have its hunger met.
3. The world was at peace under Roman rule. The world was an open door for the spread of the gospel - without any restraint.
4. The world spoke Greek as a basic language, making communication possible with many from all over the world.
5. The world had a system of roads for mass travel which allowed Christian missionaries to reach the farthest parts of the earth. It also brought commercial travellers to metropolitan centres where Christian believers were concentrated.

**Mark 1:15** *“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”*

**Gal 4:4** *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.*

**1 Tim 2:6** *Who gave himself as a ransom for all men - the testimony given in its proper time.*

**Titus 1:3** *And at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour.*

**Heb 9:26** *Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. □*

## GALATIANS 04:05-06 ADOPTION

*To redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who called out, "Abba, Father." Galatians 04:05-06*

The word *rights* or *adoption* (huiothesia) means *to place as a son*. The picture of adoption is a beautiful picture of what God does for the Christian. In the ancient world the family was based on a Roman law called "patria potestas," the father's power. The law gave the father absolute authority over his children so long as the father lived. He could work, enslave, sell, and if he wished, he could pronounce the death penalty. Regardless of the child's adult age, the father held all power over personal and property rights.

Therefore, adoption was a serious matter. Yet, it was a common practice to ensure that a family would not become extinct — by having no male children. And when a child was adopted, three legal steps were taken.

1. The adopted son was adopted permanently. He could not be adopted today and disinherited tomorrow. He became a son of the father — forever. He was eternally secure as a son.
2. The adopted son immediately had all the rights of a legitimate son in the new family.
3. The adopted son completely lost all rights in his old family. The adopted son was looked upon as a new person — so new that old debts and obligations connected with his former family were cancelled out and abolished as if they never existed.

The Bible says several things about the believer's adoption as a son of God.

1. The believer's adoption establishes a new relationship with God - forever. He is eternally secure as a child of God. But the new relationship is established only when a person comes to Christ through faith (Gal. 3:26; 4:4-5).
2. The believer's adoption establishes a new relationship with God as father. The believer has all the rights and privileges of a genuine son of God (Rom. 8:16-17; 1 Jn. 3:1-2).
3. The believer's adoption establishes a new dynamic experience with God as father, a moment by moment access into His very presence (Rom. 8:14, 16; Gal. 4:6).
4. The believer's adoption gives him a very special relationship with other children of God — a family relationship that binds him with others in an unparalleled spiritual union (See Eph. 2:11-18; 2:19-22; 3:6; 4:4-6; 4:17-19. See Acts 2:42; Mt. 12:46-50.)

5. The believer's adoption makes him a new person. The believer has been taken out from under the authority and power of the world and its sin. The believer is *placed as a son* into the family and authority of God. The old life with all of its debts and obligations are cancelled and wiped out (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 3:23-27; 2 Pet. 1:4; Eph. 4:22; 4:24.)
6. The believer's adoption is to be fully realized in the future at the return of Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:19; Eph. 1:14; 1 Th. 4:14-17; 1 Jn. 3:2).
7. The believer's adoption and its joy will be shared by all creation on a cosmic scale (Rom. 8:21). There is to be a new heavens and earth (2 Pet. 3:12-14; Rev. 21:1-7). □

MATHEW 01: 16  
BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD

*And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. **Mathew 01:16***

Note the changed expression from "the father of". Jesus was born of Mary but not of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, but Jesus was not born of Joseph. He was born of the Holy Spirit through Mary.

This stresses a vital fact: Jesus was not born of a man, but of the Holy Spirit. He was Divine, yet human through His conception in Mary. He was God-Man, fully God and fully man. The real significance of this is that as God, He had the *capacity not to sin*. No other man since Adam has ever had this capacity, for all other men have had a human father and human mother, a father and mother contaminated with a sinful human nature. Therefore, the child of a man is born with the same nature, a nature that *cannot help but sin*. However Jesus Christ, as the only begotten Son of God born of the Holy Spirit, had the capacity to live a perfect and righteous life. He had the capacity never to sin.

However, Jesus Christ, as man, also had the capacity to sin. He suffered the pull and strain and suffering of temptation as all men do. He could have *willed* to sin. (Jn. 6:38.)

But there is this glorious difference. He utilized the capacity never to sin. He learned obedience by the things that He suffered (Heb. 5:8). He never gave in to temptation; He never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21). Thereby He became the Perfect and Ideal Man in whom all men find their salvation. □

**MATHEW 01:23**  
**THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD**

*“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us”. **Mathew 01:23***

Four convincing things about the virgin birth of Christ are:

1. The concern and great pains to which Mathew went in pointing out the supernatural birth of Jesus. He said very pointedly, “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ [not just Jesus, but “Jesus Christ, the Messiah] came about.”
  - a. “Mary...was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (v. 18).
  - b. “What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (v. 20).
  - c. “All this took place to fulfill [the prophecy]... ‘The virgin...will give birth to a son. They will call Him Immanuel... ‘God with us.’” (v. 22-23)
  - d. “They will call Him Immanuel...God With Us” (v. 23)

Matthew was not interested in giving a detailed account of Jesus’ birth. His concern was simply to draw the reader’s attention to two important facts.

First, the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah’s birth were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Second, the Jews needed to know that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, especially those who misinterpreted the Old Testament prophecies and who were not expecting the Messiah to be virgin born. One of the slanderous reports facing the early Christian believers was that Jesus was born out of wedlock.

***Isa 7:14*** *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

***Isa 9:6*** *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

***Luke 1:31*** *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.*

***Luke 2:7*** *And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

***John 1:14*** *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Rom 8:3** *For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man.*

**Gal 4:4-5** *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

**Phil 2:6-7** *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

**1 John 4:2** *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.*

2. The simple profession of Mary that shows shock and amazement: “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” (Lk. 1:34).
3. Note the mystery of life about which man knows so little.

**Eccl 11:5** *As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

**Psa 139:13-15** *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

4. Note the mystery of godliness.

**1 Tim 3:16** *Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (see Gal.4:4; 1 Jn.1:1-3)*

**Heb 2:14-17** *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

**Phi 12:5-7** *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

**2 Cor 5:19** *That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

**John 14:9** *Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

**John 10:33** *"We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God." □*

## LUKE 01: 27 VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

*To a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **Luke 01:27***

In looking at the virgin birth of Christ, man needs to think deeply and honestly. Both are necessary: man must be honest, and he must engage in concentrated thought. One question needs to be asked. Why would God's Son have to enter the world through a virgin? Or more simply put, why was Christ born of a virgin? Why was a virgin birth necessary? (Note: Mary confirmed that she was a virgin, v. 34.)

1. The birth of God's Son required a miracle. He could not be born through the natural process as other men are. If He had been born as other men, His very birth would indicate that He was no more than mere man. Very simply, any person who enters the world through a man and a woman is a mere man or a mere woman. He or she can be nothing more. But this is not so with Christ. Christ already existed. Therefore, if God willed to send His Son into the world, He would have to choose another way. All Christ needed was a body. As He Himself said to God the Father: "A body you prepared for me" (Heb. 10:5).
2. The birth of God's Son required a combined act on God's part and on woman's part. If God's Son was to become a man and identify with men, He had to come through the process of conception through a woman. Why? Because man can only come through the woman. Therefore, if God willed to send His Son into the world as a man, He would have to perform a miracle, causing Mary to conceive by an act of His divine power.

**Thought 1.** A question needs to be asked. Why is it so hard to believe that God can cause Mary to miraculously conceive? Why is it so hard to believe that God exists and that, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16)?

**Thought 2.** Just imagine what science can do in the fertilization of female eggs today. Is God not able to do so much more? How foolish our unbelief causes us to act. The problem is not God, but our faith: “For nothing is impossible with God” (Lk. 1:37; 18:27. See Heb. 11:6, which is a warning to all.)

3. The birth of God’s Son required a miraculous nature — both a divine nature and a human nature.

=> He had to be born of a woman to partake of human nature. (Heb. 2:14-18.)

=> He had to be born by a miraculous act of God so as not to partake of man’s corruption. This was critical if we are to escape corruption and live forever. Think about it. Our faith must be in an incorruptible Saviour if we are to be covered by His incorruption. God had to identify with us by becoming one with us and by conquering our depraved and doomed nature. (See *Birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God*, Mt. 1:16).

4. The birth of God’s Son required the birth of a perfect nature. Why? Because a perfect life needed to be lived. Righteousness, that is, perfection, needed to be secured. An Ideal Life (that is, a perfect, righteous life) had to be lived so that it could stand for and cover all men in perfection and in righteousness. Honest thought confesses that no man has been or is perfect. Man comes short. His *coming short* of God’s glory is tragically pictured in the ultimate fate of life: death.

But God acted. God did everything to secure righteousness and perfection for man. He took every step and performed every act necessary to save His people from their sins and from death. He did it from beginning to end, from birth to exaltation. God sent His Son into the world, not through a man and a woman but through a miraculous act of His own upon the virgin Mary. Jesus Christ was thereby the God-Man. This says at least four things.

- a. As God-Man, Christ was able to consummate both the human and divine. He had the capacity and innate power not to sin (See *Birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God*, Mt. 1:16). Therefore His Godly nature empowered Him to live righteously, never doing wrong and always choosing and doing right (Heb. 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:21). By living a sinless life, Christ was able to secure righteousness, the Ideal Righteousness, that will cover and stand for all men.
- b. As God-Man, Christ was also able to bear the sins and the judgment of sin for all men. When He died, He died as the Perfect and Ideal Man. Therefore, His death is able to cover and stand for all men.
- c. As God-Man, Christ was able to arise from the dead. Note the phenomenal words: “regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and

who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 1:3-4). He lived a perfect and holy life by which He became the Perfect and Ideal Man; therefore, His resurrection covers and stands for every man.

- d. As God-Man, Christ was exalted to sit at the right hand of the Father — to live eternally in the heavenly dimension of being, in God’s very own presence. As the Perfect and Ideal Man, His exaltation into the heavenly or spiritual dimension is able to blaze the path into heaven for every man. He is the forerunner to heaven for every man (Heb. 6:20). His exaltation as the Ideal Man covers and stands for the exaltation of every man.
5. The birth of God’s Son required the creative Word of God. God created the world by simply speaking the Word. God always creates by the power of His Word and the power of His Word alone. Therefore, when God chose...
- to create a body for His Son, He created that body by simply speaking the Word (Heb. 10:5).
  - to send His Son into the world, He sent His Son by simply speaking the Word.

It is the same with the new birth or the recreation of man’s spirit. It is by the Word of God, God’s simply speaking the Word, that man is born again. The act of the spiritual birth, of the recreation, is not seen, felt, or touched. Nothing physical happens, but the recreation does occur. *It occurs by the Word of God* (see 1 Pet. 1:23).

6. The birth of God’s Son required the virgin birth because Christ is the *one and only* Son of God. He possesses all the nature and fullness of God Himself (Phil. 2:6-7; Co1. 2:9). Therefore, His birth had to be different. He had to enter the world differently from others, for He is different by the very nature, of His being. He had to enter the world in such a way as to proclaim His divine nature, yet in such a way that would allow Him to partake of human nature. This is critically important. His birth had to involve both the act of mankind and of God Himself. Why? Because the Son of God had to be proclaimed to be the Son of God.

=> There is no salvation apart from His *being* the Son of God.

=> There is no salvation apart from His being *proclaimed* to be the Son of God.

Man can be saved only if the Son of God *is*, only if He exists, and only if He is *proclaimed*. The Son of God must *exist*, and we must *hear* of Him if we are to be saved. He and His message are both essential. His virgin birth proclaims Him to be the *one and only* Son of God, the only Son sent into the world by the direct and miraculous intervention of God.

7. The birth of God's Son required a second Adam, a second man.
- born just like the first Adam, by the Word of God using natural substance.
  - born to become what the first Adam failed to become: the Representative Man, the Ideal Man, the Pattern, the Perfect One in whom all men could find their Representative, their Ideal, their Pattern, their Perfection.
  - born to be what Adam failed to be: the Man who always chose to love and obey God in all things, thereby passing on the nature of the ideal righteousness and perfection that can stand for and cover all men.
  - born to become what the first Adam failed to pass on to man: the Way to God, the Truth of God, and the Life of God which all men can trust and follow (Jn. 14:6).
  - born to offer what the first Adam failed to pass on to man: the nature of righteousness and life, both life abundant and life eternal (see Rom. 5:15-19; Jn. 10:10).

8. The birth of God's Son required an espoused state, and not a single or married state. Why?

=> Because a single woman would, cause far more questioning and heap far more contempt upon Christ and His followers.

=> Because a married woman would not be a virgin and God's Son had to be born of a virgin as indicated by the points above.

The espoused state provided the ideal marital relationship for God to use in sending His Son into the world (see Lk.1:27). The fact that Jewish society was using the espoused relationship as a preparation for marriage shows how God was preparing the world for the coming of His Son. (See *Fullness of Time*, Ga1. 4:4.)

***Ga1 4:4*** *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.* □