

## ***THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS*** ***(Luke 1:34-38)***

The essential message and meaning of Christmas is the Incarnation – God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ (I Tim. 3:16; John 1:14; Col. 2:9). The mystery of Incarnation didn't start in a manger in Bethlehem, but even nine months earlier in a woman's womb in Nazareth when the virgin Mary conceived the Christ-Child. The miracle of Christ's virgin birth always remains a mystery to our finite mind, but it is nonetheless a timeless testimony and portrait of the glorious characters of our awesome God. The virgin birth of Jesus calls us to marvel at three manifestations of God's wondrous attributes.

### ***1. Jesus' virgin birth manifests the \_\_\_\_\_.***

The virgin conception of Christ displays the sovereign power of God. As announced by the angel Gabriel, the miraculous power behind Mary's conception is that of God the Holy Spirit, the Most High, who will overshadow her (Luke 1:34-35). The word 'overshadow' echoes the same power exercised by God when He created the world out of nothing (Genesis 1:1-2). Just as the Holy Spirit hovered over the void and empty form of the earth, and by God's creative power filled the earth with His marvelous creation, so did the Holy Spirit overshadow Mary and hover over her void and empty womb, and supernaturally, filled her womb with the Christ-Child, without the agency of a male parent. In order to strengthen her faith, God gave Mary an affirmation of His power to perform miracle: the miracle of Elizabeth's conception in her old age (Luke 1:36). Furthermore, Gabriel reminded Mary of the truth of God's sovereignty when he said "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37; Gen. 18:14; Isaiah 55:11; 7:14).

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### ***2. Jesus' virgin birth manifests the \_\_\_\_\_.***

The Christ-Child who was born of Mary is called the Holy One because He is the sinless, pure and blameless Son of God (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Pet. 2:22). Though Mary is a sinner like us (Romans 3:23; Luke 1:46), the Christ-Child in her womb, who is essentially holy, was untouched by the corruption of Mary's sinful nature (Job 14:4, 25:4; Psalm 51:5). This essential holiness and perfect righteousness of Jesus qualifies Him alone to be our Savior and Redeemer (Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:19).

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### ***3. Jesus' virgin birth manifests the \_\_\_\_\_.***

Everything in the miracle of Jesus' virgin birth is overshadowed by God's grace. To be chosen as the mother of the Christ-Child is in itself a powerful display of God's grace in the life of Mary (Luke 1:28). To believe the miracle of a virgin conception is but another gracious work of God upon the heart of Mary (Luke 1:38). To surrender to God's call to obedient suffering is only possible when the power of God's grace sustains the faith of His servant (Luke 1:38; 2:35; John 19:25). This sustaining grace is the same grace available to us when we go through our own seasons of trials and suffering.

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