

Eleutheros Newsletter

July 2018

News of Interest

Christian parents: check out this book for your young children!
"The Many Fears of Miela the Cat" by Patrice Maguire

Teach your kids to pray!

Available on Amazon & Barnes and Noble

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Check out this soulwinning seminar from Eleutheros Books!

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Click on "seminars"

In recent days *The Ramifications of Our Salvation*, a book which explains in some depth how magnificent and thorough our salvation in Christ really is, has been translated into Spanish.

That book is now in the hands of a fine missionary in Argentina who desires to have 1,000 copies printed there.

He needs about \$1,600 more to complete the project.

Please pray and ask the Lord what He would have you do regarding this important outreach ministry.

You can learn more by accessing this link:

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The Conception and Birth of Jesus

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn ([Luke 2:6-7](#))

It is traditional to ponder our Savior's birth during the Christmas season. We do well, however to give thanks to God often for the manner in which He entered this world.

There are significant reasons why Jesus was *virgin born!*

Truly saved individuals simply believe that the Scriptural story about the conception and birth of Jesus is true. They have that trust for two primary reasons.

First, the Bible teaches that He was begotten by God the Father and conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary. If God can create the entire universe as described in Genesis 1, He can surely end His Son in some miraculous way!

Second, the Holy Spirit convinces believers that the record is true:

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual ([I Corinthians 2:12-13](#); see also [John 14:25-26; 16:13](#)).

Those who do not know Christ often have serious doubts about His miraculous conception and virgin birth. After all, it is a miracle, and miracles defy human logic!

In the end, of course, the Scriptures reveal the truth, and we certainly do well to take them seriously!

So what exactly does the Bible say on these matters?

1. Jesus was conceived in the womb of His mother Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the angel answered and said unto her, 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](#)).

Some might wonder why it was important that the conception of Jesus be accomplished by the Holy Spirit.

The answer is quite simple: Jesus had to be absolutely holy in order to adequately pay the necessary price to redeem sinful man. The sin nature that all mankind shares is passed from human fathers to their children ([Romans 5:12-19](#)).

If Jesus has been conceived in the normal way, He would have received a sinful nature just as any other child; thank God, however, the Father had the Holy Spirit implant the seed, thus assuring and maintaining our Savior's deity.

Only deity could remain sinless!

Please understand that all three Persons of the Trinity were involved in this miracle: the Father planned it, the Son was implanted, and the Holy Spirit did the work.

2. Jesus was born of a virgin.

There have been deniers of this truth who have suggested that the noun for "virgin" (*'almah* in the Hebrew Old Testament and *parthenos* in the Greek New Testament) should be translated "young woman."

This, of course, is untrue for three very clear reasons.

First, the noun *'almah* DOES mean "virgin." When God brought Rebekah to Isaac, he declared, *Behold, I stand by the well of water; and it shall come to pass, that when the virgin cometh forth to draw water, and I say to her, Give me, I pray thee, a little water of thy pitcher to drink* ([Genesis 24:43](#)).

The other references which employ this noun in the Old Testament include [Song of Solomon 1:3](#); [6:8](#); and [Isaiah 7:14](#).

The same can be said regarding the noun *parthenos* in the New Testament. *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom* (Matthew 25:1). Other verses which employ this noun include Matthew 1:23; 25:7, 11; Luke 1:27; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 7:25, 28, 34-37; II Corinthians 11:2; and Revelation 14:4, where the reference is to chaste men).

Second, the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 would make no sense if the reference was to a "young woman" (*Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel*); young women give births to sons all the time! The point of this verse is that a miracle was to take place!

Third, it is clearly revealed in the Gospels that Mary had not known a man before the conception. When the angel came to Mary and announced the upcoming birth of the Son of God, she (no doubt in amazement) asked, *How shall this be, seeing I know not a man* (Luke 1:34)?

In addition, the Scriptures make it clear that she did not know a man (Joseph) until after Jesus was born (Matthew 1:25).

Why was Jesus born of a woman?

In order to die for the sins of mankind, He had to be a true human being. He did not come to this earth to die for angels or animals.

To put it another way, in order to die for the sins of mankind, He had to be a true human being.

Further, the blood of bulls and goats, often sacrificed in Old Testament times, never did take away man's sins: *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh, How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience...* (Hebrews 9:12-14)?

Simply put, Jesus HAD to be God in order to satisfy the righteous demands of the Father; He also HAD to be man in order to meet the needs of mankind.

He is the only One Who can rightly claim to be both God and man, and that is why He is the only One Who can offer eternal life (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)!

All this, of course, was done according to the will of the Father: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...* (John 3:16).

What a plan, and what a Savior!

The Birthday of a King

William H. Neidlinger

*In the little village of Bethlehem
There lay a child one day;
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.*

*'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much
God gave to us that day!
From the manger bed, what a path He led;
What a perfect holy way!*

*Alleluia! How the angels sang!
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light,*

'Twas the birthday of a King!