

**Reflection Questions:** What do I truly believe about the virgin birth of Jesus? How often do I think on the miracle of His birth? What are the implications of Jesus being fully human and fully deity? How does this change my life?

How can you pray for one another and our church this week?

### Quotes to Ponder

*The virgin birth is posted on guard at the door of the mystery of Christmas; and none of us must think of hurrying past it. It stands on the threshold of the New Testament, blatantly supernatural, defying our rationalism, informing us that all that follows belongs to the same order as itself and that if we find it offensive there is no point in proceeding further.*

Donald Macleod

*God in His wisdom, ordained a combination of human and divine influence in the birth of Christ, so that His full humanity would be evident to us from the fact of His ordinary human birth from a human mother, and His full deity would be evident from the fact of His conception in Mary's womb by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.*

Wayne Grudem

*Here's the significance of the virgin birth: Since Jesus was conceived by the agency of the Holy Spirit, God was His Father; His lineage was a holy one.*

*Therefore, Jesus was able to save His people from their sins. That's the good news of Christmas. Rejoice in it!*

John MacArthur

*First-century folk knew every bit as well as we do that babies are produced by sexual intercourse. When, in Matthew's version of the story, Joseph heard about Mary's pregnancy, his problem arose not because he didn't know the facts of life, but because he did.*

N.T. Wright

*From the very beginning of Christ's incarnation the Holy Spirit was quietly doing what needed to be done to put forward Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Savior of man.*

Nancy Guthrie

*Mary's virginity is important because it meant she wasn't pregnant. God aimed to make known that the conception of Jesus in the womb of a woman was owing to no man. So He chose a virgin. And a virgin conceived a Child whose Father was God and not man.*

John Piper



By Prophet | Bards Foretold

Born of a Virgin, Isaiah 7:14

Sermon  
Notes

December 23, 2018

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you?
2. Why was the prophecy of a virgin bearing Immanuel originally given (*Isaiah 7:1-17*)?
3. Why did Matthew connect the virgin birth to the Old Testament (*Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 7:14*)?
4. Some critics argue against the virgin birth because Mark, John, and Paul are silent on it. How *would* you answer them?
5. How do verses like *Genesis 3:15* and *Galatians 4:4-5* imply the virgin birth of Jesus?
6. Who does *Isaiah 7:14* and *1 Timothy 2:5* say that Jesus is?
7. How would you answer a critic who said that the virgin birth of Jesus sounds like other pagan legends?
8. Some who claim to be Christians say that the Bible contains errors, but it is infallible on matters of faith and practice. Why is this view dangerous? How would you refute it?
9. Can a person be a Christian and not believe in the virgin birth of Jesus? Explain.
10. Would you answer differently if the question was, "Can a person be a Christian if they deny the virgin birth of Jesus?" Explain.
11. Why/how was Jesus sinless even though He was born of a sinner?
12. What have been your own struggles with coming to terms with something as absurd to our natural minds as a virgin birth?
13. Does the virgin birth give you more confidence or less confidence in the rest of the Bible? Why?
14. Does the uniqueness of Jesus' birth give you confidence to place your faith in Him and proclaim Him as the only Savior?
15. If someone asked you why the virgin birth of Jesus is so important to Christianity, how would you respond?
16. How can the reality of the virgin birth of Jesus serve as a source of joy and peace this Christmas season?