


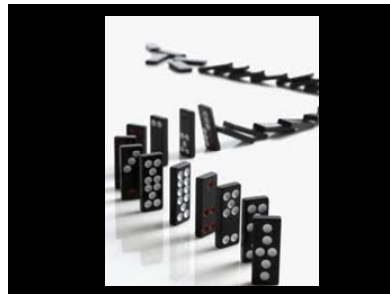
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Why Believe in Christ's Virgin Birth?

■ By Dr. Andy Woods




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Why the Virgin Birth?

- To fulfill OT prophecy
- To emphasize Christ's humanity and deity
- To emphasize Christ's eternality
- To maintain Christ's sinlessness
- To protect the bodily atonement
- To circumvent the curse of Jeconiah
- To vindicate the NT



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Genesis 3:15


"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."



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Isaiah 7:13-14

"Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."



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Three Arguments Against the Virgin Birth
(Isa. 7:13-14)




1. The Hebrew word is *Betulah* and not *Almah* (Joel 1:8)!

2. The Hebrew word *Almah* does not mean virgin!

3. No relevance to Isaiah's day!

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To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

■ Almah

◆ OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)

◆ LXX

◆ Matthew 1:23




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ISAIAH 7 AND 8 DIFFERENCES

ISAIAH 7	ISAIAH 8
Immanuel	Maher-shalal-hash-baz
Blessing	Judgment
Born to a virgin	Born to Isaiah's wife
Age 12	Age 1-2
Assyrian judgment upon Judah	Assyrian judgment upon Syria and Israel

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Isaiah 7:13-14

Ahaz' Day?

Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35

Sign (Isa 7:14)

Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)

Shear Jashub (Isa. 7:3)

David (Isa 7:13)

From the singular to the plural "you"

Extended context (Isa 9:6; 11:1-5)

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“Then he said, “Listen now, **O house of David!** Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”




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Isaiah 7:9-17


⁹ “... and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you [s] will not believe, you [s] surely shall not last.”” ¹⁰ Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign for yourself [s] from the Lord your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!” ¹³ Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you [pl] to try the patience of men, that you [pl] will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you [pl] a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child ...



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Isaiah 7:9-17

...and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ "He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good. ¹⁶ "For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings **you [s]** dread will be forsaken. ¹⁷ "The Lord will bring on **you [s]**, on your people, and on your father's house such days as have never come since the day that Ephraim separated from Judah, the king of Assyria."




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Isaiah 7:13-14

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Isaiah 9:6-7

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this."



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Isaiah 11:2


"The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."



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Why the Virgin Birth?


- To fulfill OT prophecy
- To emphasize Christ's humanity & deity
- To emphasize Christ's eternality
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An Important Doctrine

- Incarnation
- Hypostatic Union
- Unique God-Man
- 100% God
- 100 % Man



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Christ's Human Experiences

- Labor (Mark 6:3)
- Distress (Luke 22:44)
- Being troubled (John 12:27)
- Thirst (John 19:28)
- Hunger (Matt 4:2)
- Fatigue (John 4:6)
- Sadness (John 11:35)
- Lack of understanding (Matt 24:36)
- Temptation (Luke 4:1-13; Heb. 4:15)



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To Emphasize Christ's Humanity and Deity


- Humanity-Luke 2:52
- Deity-John 1:1, 14
- Hypostatic Union
- Virgin birth emphasizes the unique God/Man
 - ◆ Born naturally of a woman: humanity
 - ◆ Born supernaturally of a virgin: deity



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To Emphasize Christ's Eternality


- Christ's preexistence (John 8:56-59)
- Nicene Creed
- Virgin birth = no beginning point



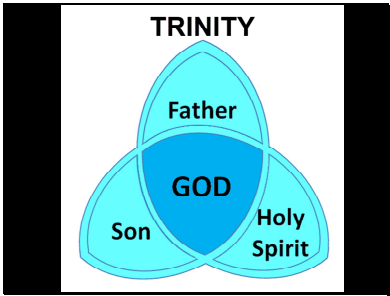
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Slide 35

To Emphasize Christ's Eternality

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Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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- Christ's preexistence (John 8:56-59)
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To Maintain Christ's Sinlessness

- Christ's perfection (John 8:46; 1 John 2:1)
- Humanity's sin nature (Ps 51:5) passed down through the man (Rom 5:12)
- Virgin birth = Christ had no biological father



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To Protect the Bodily Atonement



- Eternal God must pay the eternal penalty for man's sin (Rom 6:23)
- A perfect substitute must pay the penalty for man's sin (Exod. 12:5; 1 Pet 1:19)

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To Protect the Bodily Atonement

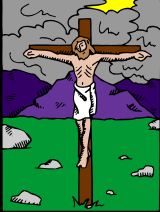


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To Pay the Penalty for Man's Sin

- Rom. 6:23
- Gen. 2:17
- Gen. 3:21
- Hebrews 2:9

A cartoon-style illustration of Jesus on the cross. Jesus is depicted with a white loincloth, a crown of thorns, and his arms outstretched. The cross is a simple wooden structure. The background shows a landscape with green hills, a blue sky with a yellow sun, and a few clouds. The artist's signature 'N. 2004' is visible at the bottom right of the illustration.

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To Protect the Bodily Atonement

A small, dark, and somewhat abstract illustration that appears to depict a person in a state of suffering or death, possibly related to the theme of atonement.

- Eternal God must pay the eternal penalty for man's sin (Rom 6:23)
- A perfect substitute must pay the penalty for man's sin (Exod. 12:5; 1 Pet 1:19)

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Why the Virgin Birth?

A small, dark, and somewhat abstract illustration that appears to depict the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus, possibly related to the theme of the virgin birth.

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To Circumvent Jeconiah's Curse

Jeremiah 22:30

Matthew 1:12

Virgin birth = Christ not an actual descendant of Jeconiah

Luke 3:31



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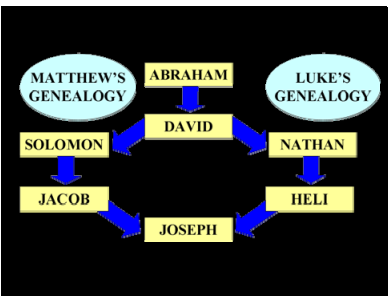
2 Samuel 7:12-16

"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, ¹⁵but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

¹⁷In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David."



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To Vindicate the NT

- Matthew 1:18-25
- Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-19
- John 8:41




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Review

- To fulfill prophecy
- To emphasize Christ's humanity and deity
- To emphasize Christ's eternality
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BEGOTTEN AND NOT MADE

December 23, 2018

VIRGIN BIRTH – VIRGIN BIRTH NOT NECESSARILY LITERAL, ONLY A SYMBOL AGAINST PATRIARCHY, SAYS BRIAN MCLAREN – BY JOSHUA ARNOLD – DECEMBER 11, 2018

<https://juicyecumenism.com/2018/12/11/virgin-birth-not-literal-symbol-vs-patriarchy-brian-mclaren/>

Pastor Brian McLaren meditates on the virgin birth in the “Be Still and Go” podcast of The Riverside Church in New York City. In a segment titled “A Post-Patriarchal Christmas,” McLaren took issue with the virgin birth as a “**science-defying miracle that proved something about Jesus.**” He protested, “This approach never really worked for me. How can you use something you can’t prove—a virgin birth long ago—to prove something else—the unique identity of Jesus?” McLaren draws a different conclusion. He says the virgin birth’s “greatest value isn’t in

proving something, but in meaning something.” McLaren said God got so tired of men “messing things up” that he said, “I’m going to work directly with women for a change. I’m taking a step to overthrow the patriarchy.” Whether you believe the “**virgin birth story**” or not, McLaren said, its “**literal factuality**” is “**not the point**.” McLaren concluded the virgin birth is “about a profound rejection of violence,” the notion that peace can never come through the old, blood-stained path of patriarchy.

ANDY STANLEY’S APPROACH TO THE VIRGIN BIRTH – **DECEMBER 27, 2016 GERALD HARRIS**

<https://christianindex.org/andy-stanleys-approach-to-the-virgin-birth/>

“One of the challenging things about the Christmas season and one of the challenging things about the Christmas story is, in fact, the Christmas story – the Christmas story as it relates to the birth of Jesus. Because there is so much miraculous, there is so much amazing, there is so much that’s really unbelievable about it and a whole lot of people just don’t believe; and I understand that.” Stanley continued, “**Maybe the thought is that they had to come up with some myth about the birth of Jesus to give him street cred later on.**” “**It is interesting because Matthew gives us a version of the birth of Jesus. Luke does, but Mark and John don’t even mention it; and a lot has been made of that.**” “**And you have heard me say some version of this a million times, but if somebody can predict their own death and resurrection, I’m not all that concerned about how they got into the world,**

because the whole resurrection thing is so amazing and, in fact, you should know this. Christianity does not hinge on the truth or even the stories about the birth of Jesus, it really hinges on the resurrection of Jesus.”

1. TO FULFILL OT PROPHECY

ISAIAH 7:13-14 – Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

MATTHEW 1:23 – Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

ISAIAH 7:1-2 – ¹ Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it. ² When it was reported to the house of David, saying, “The Arameans have camped in Ephraim,” his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake [c]with the wind.

ISAIAH 7:3 – Then the Lord said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller’s field

ISAIAH 9:6-7 – ⁶For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

ISAIAH 11:1-5 – ¹Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

ISAIAH 11:6-9 – ⁶And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. ⁷ Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned

child will put his hand on the viper's den.⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

JOHN 10:35 – If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)

2. TO EMPHASIZE CHRIST'S DEITY AND HUMANITY

JOHN 4:6 – and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

MATTHEW 4:2 – And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

JOHN 19:28 – After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty."

JOHN 11:35 – Jesus wept.

LUKE 2:52 – And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

JOHN 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

JOHN 1:14 – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

GALATIANS 4:4 – But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, **born of a woman**, born under the Law.

3. TO EMPHASIZE CHRIST'S ETERNALITY

JOHN 8:56-59 – ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” ⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

4. TO MAINTAIN CHRIST'S SINLESSNESS

JOHN 8:46 – Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

MATTHEW 26:59 – Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death.

JOHN 13:23 – There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

1 JOHN 2:1 – My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous**

1 JOHN 3:3 – And everyone who has this hope *fixed* on Him purifies himself, just as **He is pure**.

1 PETER 2:22 – who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth

PSALMS 51:5 – Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

ROMANS 5:12 – Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

5. TO PROTECT THE BODILY ATONEMENT

ROMANS 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

EXODUS 12:5 – Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats

1 PETER 1:19 – but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

6. TO CIRCUMVENT THE CURSE OF JECONIAH

JEREMIAH 22:30 – Thus says the Lord, "Write this man down childless, A man who will not prosper in his days; For no man of his descendants will prosper Sitting on the throne of David Or ruling again in Judah.'"

MATTHEW 1:12 – After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.

2 SAMUEL 7:13 – He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

LUKE 3:31 – he son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David

7. TO VINDICATE THE NT RECORD

JOHN 8:41 – You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.

NUM. 6:24-26 – The LORD bless you, and keep you;
²⁵The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.