

Dear Friend,

It is the month when we celebrate a single birth ... the most significant event in all of human history ... yet it came not with fanfare or the applause of men, but rather it came in the form of a little baby born in a manger. There have been multiple billions of births on planet earth, yet no other birth was like this one. Many people argue that we don't know for sure if December 25th is the actual date of Jesus' birth. I am always quick to say we are not celebrating a day ... we are celebrating a birth! Thank God for the birth of the Savior of the world ... Jesus Christ ... Son of God and son of man.

Atheists scoff at the thought of a virgin giving birth without the participation of a male. Yet the bible is very clear that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary supernaturally. Joseph was not the father. No human was the father. Jesus was conceived supernaturally in the womb of Mary by God Himself. Mary did not know how it could happen since she had never known a man. The angel told her,

Luk 1:35 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.

Mary said "Be it unto me according to thy word." The child conceived in the womb of Mary was literally the offspring of both God and man. The spirit, the life, within the child came from God alone. The physical body came from Mary's body, and was of the earth like all the descendants of Adam. The child was the first on earth since the fall of man to have the very life of God within his spirit. Yet his body and natural mind were the same as every other person born of woman. He was literally the "God-man." Son of God and son of man.

Believe it or not, there are many people (including many theologians) who deny the virgin birth. They say it is not possible. They are right if you remove the "God factor." Nothing is impossible with God. It is imperative that Jesus was born of a virgin. Why is that so important? Because if Jesus was conceived by a man, no matter how good and holy that man lived, it would still make Jesus a descendant of Adam and that would mean he would have the law of sin and death in his spirit. That would disqualify him from being the "spotless" lamb. His sacrificial death would have meant nothing because he would have sprung forth from the very fallen race he came to redeem.

He had to be born of God. God truly was his Father. He was born without spot, and he lived sin free by the power of the life that was conceived within him. When he died on the cross, he was not dying for any sin of his own. He had no sin to atone for. He was the

perfect, spotless lamb of God slain for the sins of mankind. The prophet Isaiah foresaw all of this centuries before the birth of Christ.

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Notice the son is "given." This refers to the divine nature of Jesus as God's own son. This son has always co-existed with the Father for eternity. His life was "given" to man. Notice a child is "born." This child is the man-child Jesus who was born in a manger. Jesus, the man, had a beginning ... and he had an end ... when he died upon the cross on Calvary. He literally gave his life as a ransom for the sins of the whole world. He paid the price for sin that mankind deserved, and it cost him his life.

But God did not stop there. After the price had been fully paid, the Father resurrected Jesus to new life by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has been born from the dead and now he has no end. At his resurrection he was glorified with a heavenly body and he is seated at the right hand of God. His kingdom will continue for all eternity and he shares that same resurrection life with all who willingly call upon His name. Thank God we celebrate Christmas to honor the birth of the Savior. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY