

“The Birth and Life of Jesus, the Messiah”

“Know What You Believe” — Part 9

Luke 2:11

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel’s promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

1. Was Jesus Divine at His birth?

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."
Luke 1:26-35

- The virgin birth miracle of conception is too difficult for many to accept.
- The virgin birth is not the kind of story that early Christians would have made up.
- The virgin birth declares Jesus has come from God.
- The virgin birth made possible the uniting of full deity and full humanity in one person.

But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.
Galatians 4:4-5

- The virgin birth points to Jesus' identity as the divine Son of God.
"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."
Matthew 1:23

***Jesus is God’s own Son.
Jesus was Immanuel, God with us.
Jesus was the Creator who became man.
Jesus was the Word made flesh.
Jesus the Judge was judged,
reconciling humanity to Himself.***

2. Is Jesus Israel’s promised Messiah?

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11

- From the early second century onward, attempts have been made to sever Jesus from His Jewish roots.

- The life of Jesus cannot be understood apart from the Old Testament promises of God.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end. Luke 1:32-33

- Matthew connects Jesus' life to the story of Israel.

- ⇒ Son of David, Son of Abraham—Matthew 1
- ⇒ The Magi declare Jesus to be “King of the Jews.” Matthew 2
- ⇒ Jesus' return from Egypt—Matthew 2:14-15
- ⇒ Jesus tested in the wilderness—Matthew 4
- ⇒ Jesus comes to fulfill the Law and the prophets—Matthew 5
- ⇒ When Jesus dies it is as the King of the Jews—Matthew 27

- Paul connects Jesus' life to the story of Israel.

- ⇒ Descendant of David—Romans 1
- ⇒ Jesus' death and resurrection was according to the Scriptures—1 Corinthians 15
- ⇒ All of God's promises are “Yes” in Christ—2 Corinthians 1

- John connects Jesus' life to Israel.

- ⇒ Salvation is from the Jews—John 4
- ⇒ Jesus is the bread that came down from heaven—John 6

- The writer of Hebrews connects Jesus' life to Israel.

- ⇒ The priesthood, the temple, the sacrifices, take on new meaning when seen through the life of Jesus—Hebrews 8
- ⇒ All of Israel's institutions are a shadow of the reality found in Christ Jesus—Hebrews 10

- Jesus was the inspiration for the disciples' understanding of the Old Testament Scriptures.

...“How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27

3. Did Jesus fulfill the mission of Israel?

...I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42:6-7

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.”

Matthew 11:4-5

4. Did Jesus live a sinless life?

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:4-6

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God... 1 Peter 3:18

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

What difference does it make? The gospel is made known through the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was perfectly qualified to save us. Jesus is the revelation of the saving grace of God.

Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. Hebrews 7:27

Do you believe in Jesus as Savior?
Jesus did not come to condemn but to save!
Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior?