

The Microscopic Jesus

Before the beginning of time God lived. He declared, “I live forever” ⁽¹⁾. Therefore, “the number of his years is past finding out” ⁽²⁾.

Not only is God eternal, but also universal. “The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you” ⁽³⁾. In fact, the Lord once asked, “Do not I fill heaven and earth” ⁽⁴⁾?

About 700 years before the first Christmas, this eternal, universally present God predicted he would become a microscopic human in the womb of a virgin. “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel” ⁽⁵⁾. The Hebrew word “Immanuel” translates into English as “God with us” ⁽⁶⁾.

How astonishing! The eternal Christ laid aside his powers, privileges, rights—his infinitude—and became a two-cell human! These cells developed into the baby Jesus whose birthday we commemorate each December.

Why A Virgin Birth?

God created the first humans. He planned on using this couple to begin populating planet earth. “Male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth’” ⁽⁷⁾.

A problem arose when Adam rebelled against the Lord. Rebellion robbed Adam of his godly nature. His human spirit died while his body and soul continued living. Therefore, he could only pass spiritual death to his offspring. “In Adam all die.” ⁽⁸⁾ In other words, all human children since Adam have only been two-thirds alive: soul and body alive, but the human spirit dead, inactive and unable to contact the Spirit of God. This sounds pretty hopeless.

But the God of boundless hope implemented a plan to return life to the human spirit. This plan required a new beginning for the human race and therefore necessitated a virgin birth.

God our heavenly Father sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin in Israel named Mary. The angel said, “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.” ⁽⁹⁾

Understandably, Mary questioned the angel, “How will this be...since I am a virgin?” ⁽¹⁰⁾

“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.’” ⁽¹¹⁾

At some moment after the angel’s announcement to Mary, the eternal Christ divested himself of his powers and privileges. “The power of the Most High” overshadowed Mary, and Christ became an embryonic human in her

reproductive system. “Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God. He made himself nothing...and appeared in human form.”⁽¹²⁾

The First and Only Sinless Human

Because of his virgin birth, Jesus inherited a sinless human spirit from his heavenly Father. “In him was no sin.”⁽¹³⁾ No sinful impulses or desires lurked in his nature.

But humanity exposed Jesus to every conceivable temptation, enticement and devilish bribe. Satan, who wants to be ruler of this world, tried mightily to lead Jesus into rebellion against God’s will, love and plan. Satan battered him with every external force designed to push him into transgressing God’s rules for human behavior. Additionally, Jesus’ arrest, trial, torture, and crucifixion failed to move him to commit an act of sin. Truly, he was “tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.”⁽¹⁴⁾

When Jesus died he became the first and only sinless human. He didn’t go the way of the first Adam who also came into the world sinless. Jesus, unlike Adam, spurned and shunned every opportunity to corrupt his sinless nature, the nature given him through the virgin birth. Jesus’ virgin birth made it possible for him to be sinless, to die sinless and be raised from the dead sinless.

From Microscopic Human to Universal Savior of Mankind

The eternal Christ gave up his universality in order to become microscopic. But after his resurrection, Jesus “ascended higher than all the heavens in order to fill the whole universe.”⁽¹⁵⁾ In other words, he once again became universally present. He can be everywhere at once and at the same time live in each of us!

Through an event called the new birth, the Spirit of Jesus moves into the human spirit. As his Spirit and the human spirit intermingle, the human spirit takes on Jesus’ life. We become alert to God’s reality and experience his loving fellowship. Unsuppressible joy floods us, unimaginable peace of mind controls us and, most importantly, wholehearted love for God fills us. Jesus’ hatred of sin becomes our hatred of it. The Spirit of Jesus imparts his repudiation of sin to us. We then shun it as something disgusting.

Jesus’ virgin birth launched a sequence of events absolutely essential to mankind’s salvation. The virgin birth of Jesus, his sinless life, his death and resurrection, his ascension and coronation as ruler of God’s creation opened the door for every human to be reunited with our Creator.

Footnotes:

1. Deuteronomy 32:40
2. Job 36:26

3. 1 Kings 8:27
4. Jeremiah 23:24
5. Isaiah 7:14
6. Matthew 1:23
7. Genesis 1:27-28
8. 1 Corinthians 15:22
9. Luke 1:31
10. Luke 1:34
11. Luke 1:35
12. Philippians 2:6-7 NLT
13. 1 John 3:5
14. Hebrews 4:15
15. Ephesians 4:10

