

In Luke we hear Mary giving her recollections and telling of her thoughts. It is like a scene in court. Neither witness denies any of the feelings and thoughts of the other, but each confines his witness to the things he actually saw and thought. There is no hearsay testimony included. It is all first-hand witness - the very best kind of testimony - given by the two people who were the most able to know the facts.

Thus the Bible gives two first-hand accounts of the Virgin Birth of Christ. From two independent sources the same marvellous fact is described. There is absolutely no doubt that the Bible teaches this doctrine. No one who denies it can honestly say that he believes the Bible.

The Bible is God's Word. God is a God of truth. It is important that we believe in the Virgin Birth, since to deny it is to deny His Word and to make Him a liar.

In the second place, it is important that we believe in the Virgin Birth, since to deny it is to deny that God is a God of power.

The older type of Modernism tried to get the supernatural out of the Bible. Miracles were explained away and many parts of the Scripture were designated as myth or legend. This sort of Modernism simply could not stand the idea of the Virgin Birth. Most of its followers delighted in declaring their disbelief in this doctrine.

There has now arisen a newer type of Modernism, which is erroneously designated as Neo-Orthodoxy. Its followers make a distinction between the universe where God is, which they call "the other side", and that in which we live, which they call "this side". To all intents and purposes, they deny the ability of "the other side" to affect the material world of history which exists on "this side". They are ready, theoretically, to admit the truth of almost anything in the Bible, but they only mean that these accounts in some crude or mythical way give an apprehension, but not actually any knowledge or understanding, of what occurs or exists on "that side". Some of them deny that we actually know any "propositional truth" about religious facts. Men of this school may affirm or deny belief in the Virgin Birth, without holding at all that God actually worked a miracle in the realm of history.

To all such vagaries the Biblical teaching of the Virgin Birth presents a sharp antithesis. God the Holy Spirit entered the world of history and caused a virgin to conceive a son without human aid. God is a God of power. Against the shifting denials of modern apostasy, the Biblical doctrine of the Virgin Birth of Christ presents the positive message that God does take an interest in the affairs of this world and interferes in such ways and at such times as are vital for His purposes.

Some people think that they are honoring God by finding the miraculous and the unnatural on every page of the Bible. This is a mistaken attitude. Most of us live our lives without ever seeing such an act of God as transcends the laws of His material universe. His providence is very real. He directs all the circumstances that concern our lives. But ordinarily he does so by utilizing the laws that He has established, not by pushing them aside. Since this is our normal lot, it is helpful to us that God has described situations of this type in the greater part of His Word. Chapter after chapter - yes, even book after book - may be read, without coming upon any miracle that transcends the laws of nature.

Even so, it is helpful to us to know that the God who leads us is the