

very One who has established all natural law, and that He can transcend it if He chooses. Even though we may never see such a miracle, it is good to know that they have occurred, and that our God is the One Who can perform them. Here in connection with the birth of Christ, we have a clear instance. The miracle is there. It may be accepted or denied, but it cannot be explained away. God entered into the world of history with super-human power, doing something that transcends all human experience and ability. It is a clear denial of the old-fashioned Modernism and also of the new-fashioned modernistic Neo-Orthodoxy. It is vital that the Christian believe in the Virgin Birth.

In the third place, the Virgin Birth is vital to our belief in a Christ Who is really God. We shall only glance briefly at this important point. Christians have always believed in Jesus as the God-man. He is truly God and truly man. How did this come about? God the Holy Spirit caused a human woman to conceive. Jesus did not despise the Virgin's womb. He is of the seed of David, a real human being. He is the Son of God, "very God of very God". How could a true Incarnation have occurred, save through a Virgin Birth?

In the fourth place, the Virgin Birth is vital to belief in a Christ Who can be our Redeemer. True belief in the Atonement requires the Virgin Birth. It is like the shaft that carries the power.

Man is a sinner and must suffer eternally if God is to be just. Man is powerless to save himself. It is he who must pay the penalty of sin, and no other can justly pay it. It would take an eternity of suffering for any man to pay the penalty of his own sin. He could not possibly redeem anyone else.

God, however, is not only just, but also loving. His great heart yearns for man's salvation. His power is limitless. But this power can accomplish nothing, unless it can be made available to man. God cannot forgive man's sin and still remain a just God, unless man himself first pays the penalty that is due.

Man must pay the penalty but lacks the power. God has the power, but it is man who must pay. How, then, can man be saved?

The analogy of the drive-shaft fits exactly. The Virgin Birth made our salvation possible. The second person of the Trinity entered the womb of a virgin and she conceived a son. The eternal One took on Himself human flesh. He was God, the infinite One. He was God, the sinless One. He had no sin of His own which must be dealt with. As man, he could pay the penalty of sin. As God He had the power to make this payment. Through the miracle of the Virgin Birth the God-man came into existence, and only thus could we be saved.

All that we need for salvation is simple faith in the atonement of Christ. He, the sinless One, died for our sins. But if we are truly saved, we will go on to become true servants of God, and to do this we must understand something of the infinite mystery of the Incarnation. Only through the Virgin Birth could the power of the infinite God be made available to man in his dire need. The Virgin Birth is vital to belief in a Christ Who is capable of being our Redeemer.

In the fifth place, the Virgin Birth is important because it is the point at which the enemy of souls often tries to drive a first wedge to destroy Christian testimony.