A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke Chapter 1- Luke 1:34&35**

13- The Importance of the Virgin Birth Part 2

January 11, 2009

Luke 1:34&35

Now last week- I began to show you just how important the Doctrine of the Virgin Birth really is to us today who live in the 21st Century.

And as I told you last time- we are involved in our day in one of the most massive battles that the Christian Church has ever fought. It is the battle over the Truth- what Truth is and is not, and how that Divine Eternal Authoritative Truth affects not only our daily lives- but our own relationship with Jesus Christ.

This battle is over whether or not the 500 year old Protestant Reformation is ongoing, or whether or not we will abdicate our holy responsibility to carry the torch forward or throw it on the ground. The battle is over whether or not Scripture has final authority in the House of God and governs our lives and binds our conscience, or whether we will return back to the errors of Rome and ancient heresies and allow Man and Man's Doctrine and Man-made philosophy to rule in the Church.

It is a battle over Who is Sovereign- God or Man, and a battle over whose will is preeminent in the Church- God or Man, and who is to be worshipped and adored and exalted- God or Man.

It is a battle over Who Owns the Church- Jesus Christ or the sinful people whom He saves. It is a battle over whether or not Jesus bought and paid for the Church with His Own Blood, and whether He owns it outright and runs it as a theocratic Kingdom, or whether the Church is an extension of our own American Democracy where majority rules.

It is a battle over whether or not the 66 Books of the Holy Scriptures are inspired, whether they are God breathed or not, whether or not Scripture was exhaled by the very Mouth of God, and whether it is Inerrant, Infallible, Relevant, Eternal, and Authoritative, or whether self-appointed and unaccountable Prophets and Seers and Apostles hear from God today and speak on His behalf.

It is a battle over whether or not Truth is Absolute, whether it is Objective and Knowable and Teachable, and Whether or not we are held accountable and that we will be judged by God as to our obedience to that Word, or whether Truth is subjective and changes with the whims of Man.

And it is a battle over whether or not the correct and proper interpretation of God's Word lies in the inspired Words themselves through the literal and historical and grammatical meaning of the Words all through the miraculous and supernatural illumination of the Holy Spirit, or whether the power of interpretation lies in the individual and is found through the exercise of human Wisdom, human ingenuity, and human reasoning.

And make no mistake about this, dear friends, *somebody* will win this battle and somebody will lose, and if *we* lose this battle- we will descend back into a thousand years of darkness, and the importance and the magnificence of Sovereign Grace will be obscured and hidden by the self-importance of Man.

And the sad part about this battle is that even though so much is at stake and the outcome is so very important to every Church and every believer- in spite of that- the overwhelming majority of people who sit on the pews of the American Church today either don't know that this battle is raging or they simply don't care.

And as I said last time- part of this battle over Divine Truth lies in you and me having a correct understanding and a deep appreciation of what the Bible teaches about The Virgin Birth.

As I told you last week- that according to *Christianity Today Magazine*- a full 45% of all those who stand behind the pulpits of American Churches in our day do not believe in the Virgin Birth, and, in fact, the overwhelming majority of that 45% outright reject the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ as being impossible and completely unnecessary.

And according to everything that I can find out- a full 50% of those young men in seminary today- who are in training to become the future Pastors and Elders and Leaders of the Christian Church, also reject The Biblical Truth about the Virgin Birth.

So we must reach a conclusion about the issue of the Virgin Birth. Is the Virgin Birth some side issue? Is this something that we can either take or leave? Is Christ being conceived and born of a virgin something that is up in the air and something that is left to Man to choose whether or not he wants to accept or not?

But then we have to ask an even deeper question. Can a person be safe in Jesus? Can a person have a genuine Salvation relationship with Jesus Christ and still reject or even deny the Virgin Birth? Does true Salvation depend on us accepting and believing and confessing that Jesus was, in fact, conceived and born of a Virgin? In other words- is The Doctrine of the Virgin Birth an Essential Doctrine of the Christian Faith and one that affects the eternity of an individual?

My goal in these sermons is to convince you- from Scripture- of the "essentialness" of The Virgin Birth- that believing in and accepting and confessing that Jesus Christ was both conceived and born of a Virgin is not a side issue, it is not something that we can take or leave, it is not something that is left to the individual to decide whether or not he wishes to accept it, and it is, in fact, an essential element of Salvation and that it is mandatory for Biblical Christianity.

And I began our discussion last week with the fact that the Old Testament – that collection of 39 Inspired Infallible Books clearly teaches that Messiah will be born of a Virgin.

Now we must remember what the Old Testament is and of the importance of all of us understanding the validity and reliability and trustworthiness the 39 Old Testament Books.

The 39 Old Testament Books were Authored by God the Holy Spirit and they were written down as the Spirit of God moved upon or carried along 31 different holy men over a 1400 year time frame as they labored on 3 different Continents. The oldest Books of the Old Testament are **Job** and **Genesis**, and the last Book to be written was **Malachi**- about 400 years before the birth of Jesus.

Now what is important to know is that the entire collection of 39 Old Testament Books were published and put into circulation- 200 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. And the reason that that is

significant is that after that date- nobody was able to go back to the Old Testament and change any of the 400 prophecies concerning Messiah after Jesus was born. No one could back date anything or change anything to make Jesus fit into the prophecies- no, whoever was going to be the real Messiah had to actually fulfill the prophecies that were published and in wide circulation 200 years before Jesus was born.

If Jesus claimed to be the Messiah- and He was not Virgin Born-He would be a liar because the Messiah that God promised throughout the Old Testament had to be conceived and born of a Virgin.

And as we saw last time- part of those prophecies was that the Messiah *had* to be born of a Virgin. So our first foundation that The Virgin Birth is Essential is that the Old Testament required it.

The second foundation beside the Old Testament is The Doctrine of the Trinity... The Doctrine of the Trinity. And in order for me to do this- I'm going to give you some theology here. You're going to go away from here this morning being theologians- if you can grasp this tremendous Truth about the Trinity.

It goes back to how we understand the very Nature of God. So to begin this- please turn with me to **Deuteronomy 6**, and we're going to do this, I hope, in about fifteen minutes- so I'm going to turn you into an instant theologian on this subject in fifteen minutes.

Deuteronomy 6:4&5

- ⁴ Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
- ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

This is the distinguishing Truth about true religion. **Deuteronomy 6:4** is the most defining statement about the Nature of God in the entire Old Testament- and God required this statements to be put on the foreheads and on the arms and on the doorposts of the houses of the people of God.

"Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"

Now you have to understand how radical this statement was at this time. All of the other nations of the world at that time had multiple gods that they worshipped. They were what is called"polytheistic"- they had many gods. But Israel had only one God because there is only one true and living God. And that is supported by verse 5:

You shall love the **LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Now let me give you the point of that. The reason why you can love this one single God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength is because you don't have to reserve any of your love for any other deity because there isn't any other god.

There is only one God and you are to love that one God with all your soul, with all your heart, with all your might. You do not divide your love because there is no other God. You love Him and Him alone with all your being.

If there were three gods, for example- you could love two of them and not one, or you could love one of them and not two, or you could love three of them with a third of your passion, but you could never love each of those three gods with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind leaving nothing back if there was more than one.

Now please turn with me and read James 2:19:

You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Now what is so amazing, dear friends, is that demons have a far better theology about the Nature of God than do most modern Church members because even though demons are doomed to spend all of eternity in hell- they absolutely and categorically reject polytheism and believe in the one single God. And- as opposed to your average laid back churchgoer of today who engages in worship so casually and flippantly- the Apostle James says here that demons believe so strongly in the one true living God- that they tremble.

So it is true that God is One- but the way in which God is one is that God is One in His Essence. God is One in His Divine Essence- and at the same time that God is One in His Essence- He is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Now, can I fully understand that? No. But I can't fully understand *anything* about God. Can I fully explain that? No. But again, I cannot fully explain *anything* about God. But even though I cannot fully understand it or explain it- do I believe it? Yes, I do. How could I believe something that I cannot fully understand or explain? Because the Bible clearly says that God is One, and the Bible at the same time also clearly teaches that each of the three Persons of the Godhead are fully Deity. And the fact that I can't understand it says nothing about God, but an awful lot about me and my limitations as a human.

We know there are three Persons in the one Essential God because in **Genesis 1** when God says He creates, "**In the beginning God created...**" the word "**God**" here is <u>elohim</u>, and that's a plural word. And in **Genesis 1:26** when God made Man out of the dust of the earth-God said,

Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...

Again, the words "us" and "our" here are plural as God is speaking among the three Persons of the Trinity concerning Man.

And in **Isaiah 6-** when God is speaking in verse 8- the one single God says:

Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?

Whom shall I (singular) send and who will go for us (plural)? And in Isaiah 48:16 Isaiah writes,

Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit.

Notice how this is put at the end of this verse- "the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit." So there's at least two. And when you see things like this all throughout the Bible- you are left with only one of three choices:

1. **Deuteronomy 6:4** is wrong and the true God is not One

- 2. All those other verses where God is plural throughout the Bible plus all those verses that speak of Christ's Divinity and the Deity of the Holy Spirit are all wrong
- 3. The Doctrine of the Trinity is right- which makes all those other verses right, and God is One in Essence and is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

In Psalms 110:1, King David said:

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

So we can see that there are plenty of references in the Old Testament to Father God, to the Holy Spirit, and to the Son.

And then you come in to the New Testament in **Matthew 3** and Jesus is there in the water at His baptism, and the Father is speaking out of Heaven. **"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased"**, while at the very same time- the Spirit is descending on Jesus like a dove. So once again- you have all three members of the Trinity in the same scene at the same time. That is why we say that the Three Persons of the Trinity are "eternally manifested"- they were manifested at Creation when they made Man and they are manifested here at Jesus' Baptism.

And then there is that wonderful and complete statement given by Jesus about the distinct ministries of the three Persons of the Trinity in **John 15:26** when He said:

When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me,

So we see that the Son sends the Spirit from the Father, keeping the three Persons of the Trinity all distinct.

And, of course, at the Great Commission at the end of Matthew-**Matthew 28:19**- Jesus commands us to go and baptize in the Name of, or in the authority of, or for the Glory of:

the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

And the very last verse in **2Corinthians 13:14** where the Apostle Paul gives his apostolic blessing on the Church when he said:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

So we can see that there are numerous references to the fact that God- though one God- is three distinct Persons.

And it is this Truth about the Triunity of God that is the first thing that lays the foundation for the Virgin Birth. You see, dear friends, God doesn't have to create His Son- because the Son already eternally exists. So the second Person of the Trinity- God the Son- is literally put into human flesh to be born of a virgin as Jesus.

So when the virgin conception took place- God and Man were supernaturally and mysteriously joined together. And that was because the only One who has a right to reign and a right to rule is not just Son of David- but Son of God.

So you have the Old Testament foundation of the Virgin Birth- the 39 Books of the Old Covenant *required* that the Messiah be born of a virgin- and then you have the foundation found in The Doctrine of the Trinity- that God the Son was eternal with the Father but at this point in history- He was united with flesh and was placed into the womb of a virgin- but there is also a third Foundation to the Virgin Birth.

And this third foundation comes in the *duties* of the Messiah, or in the *work* of the Messiah- the Person and Work of the Messiah.

Now what do I mean by that? Well, now follow this very carefully-because I'm going to show you something that's very critical to the Christian Faith- absolutely critical.

Please turn in your Bibles to **Isaiah 43**. And we're going to hang around Isaiah for awhile- so don't leave it. But **Isaiah 43** is going to be the main portion. Now look at **Isaiah 43:11**:

I, even I, am the Lord, And there is no savior besides Me.

Now who is doing the talking here? God the Father is the One Who is speaking here, right? And what does God the Father says here? I am the Lord and beside me- there is no Savior. God the Father is

saying here that He is the Savior and besides Him there is no Savior. Now flip over a couple of chapters and look at **Isaiah 45:22:**

Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

Now God the Father is speaking again here, right? And God the Father says here, "Everybody on the face of the earth who wants to be saved has to turn to God." Why? Because only God saves, right?

Now keep you finger there and go to the New Testament- to **Titus- Titus 1:3** and read with me:

But at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,

Now turn back to 1Timothy and read 1Timothy 2:3:

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

In each of these verses- in both the Old and New Testaments we read where God- not Jesus- but God- is the Savior, and, in fact, we read in Isaiah that God Himself said that He is the *only* Savior and that there is no other Savior besides Him. So how do we reconcile all of this?

Am I saying that Jesus is not the Savior? No, not at all- Jesus is absolutely the Savior and only Jesus is the Savior- but the only way to reconcile all these verses, dear friends, is to also say that Jesus is God. And this God is a *saving* God. He is by Nature a Savior. Paul says to Timothy, "God our Savior- the Savior of all men."

And over in **Matthew 1:21**- the angel is giving reassurance to Joseph that all is well with Mary and he says:

She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins

Jesus will do what? He will save His people from their sins. Now please notice that this Promise is very specific both in what it does *not* say and in what it *does* say. Jesus is not going to save- in the sense of rescue- the Jews from the Roman occupation of their land- and this is

very significant- because that concept of the word "saved" was the dominate theology of that day and ours.

You see, the overwhelming majority of the first century Jews did not think that God needed to rescue them from Sin- they believed that by virtue of the fact that they were born Jewish- that that made them saved already. So the only "rescuing" or "saving" that the Jews thought that they needed was from Gentile armies like Syria, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Egypt, or Rome.

The average Jew of the first century didn't think that they needed to be rescued from sin- no, no, no- they wanted salvation or deliverance or to be rescued from the evil pagan polytheistic Romans who occupied their land and ruled with cruelty.

And this very same wrong understanding of what Jesus came to save us from is the dominate theology of many in the Health, Wealth, and Prosperity Movement of our day. They don't think they need saving from their wicked sins- Oh no- they want to be "set free" or "rescued" or "delivered" or "saved" from "low expectations" and "dead end lives" and "poverty" and "lousy bosses" and "wives who nag" and "men who don't smile", and many people actually believe that Jesus hung on a Cross and died so that we could hit more home runs or win the Grammy Awards or get our teeth whiter and brighter or buy that new car.

To suggest that any of these things that are all natural and temporary and which are all passing away and are sensual and which are of the world and not of Heaven are anywhere near as serious as sin is to belittle the reason why Jesus hung and bled on the Cross. What did the angel say to Joseph?

... you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Because sin is so horrible to God, so patently offensive to God, so utterly wicked in God's Eyes- every man woman and child on earth will see God vindicate His Righteous Justice against sin, and they will die in their sins and they will perish throughout eternity in a lake of fire that burns with brimstone- except that God issued Love and Mercy through the horrible Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.

Our sin is so pervasive, so serious, such a huge issue with Godthat without God becoming Man- we have no hope. Without that

God/Man being born of a virgin- we have no hope. Without that Incarnate Christ living a perfectly sinless life- we have no hope. Without Jesus dying and then rising from the dead- we have no hope.

And to marginalize sin and to equate having a bad day with eternal damnation in hell is the height of foolishness and the very epitome of arrogance, and it is to forget that we have been pardoned by that Grace that was issued by that one single Act of Jesus on the Cross and by that Grace alone.

The most inhuman torture against another human being, the most horrible case of incurable cancer, the most insidious conspiracy to destroy a man or business financially is nothing compared to eternity in hell, and make no mistake about it- dear friends- it is precisely because we really don't think that God is that serious about sin and we really don't believe that what we do is that bad as to why we don't value more highly what God through Christ has done for us in saving us from our sins.

Please, if you have never heard anything I have ever told youhear this. Sin is the biggest problem that you have. Nothing else comes close. Your other problems and struggles in this life are nothing compared to that one single problem of sin. The prophet Isaiah said this about sin in **Isaiah 59:2:**

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

Understand this, brothers and sisters- it was not your physical health that made Jesus go to the Cross, It was not your financial security that made Jesus go to the Cross, it was not your individual happiness that made Jesus go to the Cross- it was your sin and my sin.

Jesus was born to die; Jesus came here to die- so that through His Death, Burial, and Resurrection He could save us from our sins. All the miracles and signs and wonders and all the teachings are geared to that one end- Jesus saves us from our sins. That was God's purpose in becoming flesh.

And anything that detracts from that one purpose is evil, and any teaching which include other things is evil, and hinders God's real purpose in Jesus coming and in His Life and in His Death and In His Resurrection.

The Salvation that Jesus gives from sin is sure, it is certain, it is secure, it is permanent, it is eternal life because Jesus did not give everyone an *opportunity* to be saved- no, it is much greater than an opportunity- Jesus actually and literally paid for the Salvation, he bought the Salvation, He actually accomplished the Salvation of every single one of those whom God has chosen from before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:1-12

- ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:
- ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
- ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love
- ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- 8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight
- ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him
- ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Jesus saves us from our sins so that we might be to the Praise of God Who first full trusted Jesus.

So we can see then that this Salvation that Jesus came to bring to us is not a physical salvation or an emotional rescuing or a financial deliverance or a political saving or a materialistic salvation- but very narrowly and very precisely, Jesus came to saves us from our sins.

Now let me get back to the main point and draw a simple conclusion here. If there is but one God and He alone is the Savior, and at the same time- Jesus is the Savior, then who is Jesus? He's God. Jesus is God- unmistakably- without any doubt. And that is why we need to believe in and trust in The Doctrine of the Trinity.

In Luke 2:11, the announcement comes to the shepherds,

"Today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior who is Messiah the Lord."

God is the only Savior and Jesus is the Savior, therefore Jesus is God. That is a rational syllogism. In fact, **The Acts 4:12** says,

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.

And the Samaritans were right when they named Jesus the Savior of the world.

Luke 2:11

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a <u>Savior</u>, <u>who is</u> <u>Christ the Lord</u>.

Now please go back to **Isaiah 43** again, and I want you to notice another thing that God says is true only of Himself. Look at the first part of **Isaiah 43:14:**

Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,

Here the Lord identifies Himself not only as your Savior, but also as your Redeemer. There is no other Redeemer but God.

Hosea 13:14a

Shall I ransom them from the power of Sheol? Shall I redeem them from death?

And in **Luke 1:68**- that familiar verse we've read a couple of times, where Zacharias says,

- ⁶⁸ Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,
- 69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant—

Over and over- God is said to be the only the Redeemer, and yet it says in **Galatians 3:13** that

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law..."

If God is the only Redeemer and Christ redeemed us, then the only rational conclusion is that Christ is God. And it necessitates a virgin conception and virgin birth for God to be born in the world and Jesus is God, therefore, it is understandable that Jesus was born this way.

1 Peter 1:18-21

- 18 Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers,
- 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.
- 20 For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you
- 21 who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Jesus is the Redeemer, and since God Alone redeems- Jesus is God. And since Jesus is God, the Son- the second Person of the Trinity, preexisting, coming into human life, it had to be by means of a miraculous coming together of what is Divine and what is human and that is the virgin conception and birth.

Furthermore, back to **Isaiah 43:14**- God defines Himself as being "The Holy One". Verse 15 says:

I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.

Now we don't have time to go through the entire Old Testament and tell you how many, many, many times God called Himself "Holy". God refers to His Own Holiness over and over and over again, and you have in the text I read you this morning **Luke 1:35** this word from Gabriel to Mary,

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the <u>holy</u> Child shall be called the Son of God.

The angel told Mary- "You're going to bring forth a holy offspring" Now the Apostle John was very clear about this issue when he said in **1John 1:10:**

If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

So every human on earth born of woman is a sinner who has sin in his life. Yet the angel tells Mary that her virgin born Son will be holy. And the Apostle Paul confirms this when he gave the general description of all lost men when he said in **Romans 3:10-18:**

- 10 as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one;
- 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for GoD;
- 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."
- 13 "Their throat is an open grave, With their tongues they keep deceiving," "The poison of asps is under their lips";
- 14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness";
- 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood,
- 16 Destruction and misery are in their paths,
- 17 And the path of peace they have not known."
- 18 "There is no fear of GOD before their eyes."

So if any man says he has no sin- he's a liar, isn't he? But if that is true- then how does Mary have a holy offspring? Only because that Child is, in fact- God in human flesh.

Back in Isaiah 43:15, God said,

I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.

God says here- "I'm your King". In Zechariah 14:9 God says,

And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

Here- the prophet Zechariah tells us again that God is one, and this one single God is the King of the earth. Yet when Pilate asked Jesus if He was a King in **John 18:37**- Jesus responded:

... You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.

Revelation 19:16

And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

I'm your only Savior, I'm your only Redeemer, I'm the only holy One, and I am your King, and there is no other explanation for Jesus Christ than that He is the Savior God, the Redeemer God, the holy God, and the Sovereign God in human flesh, and that necessitated a miraculous virgin conception and birth.

And all of that leads to **Deuteronomy 6:13** where after saying the Lord is our God, the Lord is one, and to love this one God with all your heart, soul and might, it says in verse 13,

Deuteronomy 6:13

You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

And, of course, the Hebrew word that was translated here as "serve" means: *to worship*- so we are to believe that God is one, and we are to love this one God and we are to worship this one true living God.

And yet **Hebrews 1:6** says:

let all the angels of God worship (Jesus).

Now if God Himself calls the angels and men to worship Jesus Christ and worship is reserved only for God- then once again- Christ is God.

Isaiah 45:23- I can't resist these cause they're so foundational, just two more. Isaiah 45:23:

23 "I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, That to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear *allegiance*.

24 "They will say of Me, 'Only in the LORD are righteousness and strength.' Men will come to Him, And all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.

25 "In the LORD all the offspring of Israel will be justified and will glory."

God says...that unto Me- unto God- every knee will bow and every tongue will swear allegiance and they will say of Me, 'Only in the Lord...' God says- "I want every knee and I want every tongue, I want every bowed knee and every sworn allegiance to Me and Me alone."

And then there is **Philippians 2:9-11**, which says:

⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Now if God demands that every knee bow and every tongue acknowledge His sovereignty, and swear allegiance to Him, and God calls for that for Christ, then there's only one conclusion- Jesus Christ is God. This is the foundation of Biblical Christianity and anything other than this is not.

Finally- there is Isaiah 42:8:

I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

... and yet it pleased God for all praise glory and honor to go to Jesus, and it pleased God the Father for every knee to bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord- and the only way that all of this can possibly be true is for Jesus to be God.

That is an absolute unilateral statement, and yet it tells us in **John 1:1-3&14:**

- ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- ² He was in the beginning with God.
- ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

And in **John 12:41** it says, that Isaiah saw Jesus' Glory and spoke of Him. Isaiah saw the Messiah in **Isaiah 6** and saw that He would bear the Glory of God.

So, if you think that somebody just invented the virgin birth, if you think that some people just trumped it up to sort of elevate Jesus above everyone else- guess again. The Old Testament said it would come, the Trinity makes it a reality, and the very Nature and Work of Jesus Christ demands it.

So this is the foundation of the virgin birth. And next time, Lord willing- we will explore the fallacies of those who deny the Virgin Birth.

Let's come and pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.