

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

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 1- Luke 1:26-38** 14- False Teaching About the Virgin Birth

January 18, 2009

Luke 1:26-38

It is so fascinating to me to hear people talk about meaning and morality and dignity and significance, and then hear them turn around and disbelieve in God. How silly and vain that is. What a waste of time that is. The modern search for human significance and human dignity begins with an almost overwhelming sense of despair that slices through the pagan view of life that is modern America.

We are repeatedly told that we humans are nothing more than cosmic accidents- who have slowly and randomly evolved from the slime over billions of years for no particular purpose. They say our beginnings are meaningless and that our destiny is nothing but annihilation, and yet in between those two poles of utter helplessness and despair we find a powerful search for human significance and human dignity. Why? If we have no innate value- if we are not the result of a Wise and Powerful Master Builder what is the purpose of achievement? If we do not belong to Someone Who is greater than we are, Who is more important than we are- how can any of us find significance or how can any of us have any dignity?

It is no accident, dear friends, that the greatest displays of human barbarity and cruelty and injustice that history records have not been carried out by those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ- but by those who have no faith at all, those who are empty and vacant and vapid of faith and who in their fallen depravity and enslavement of sin are unable to look at the majesty of a mountain or the beauty of a child's eyes or the Holy Scriptures and bring themselves to believe. How pitiful that is.

Truer words were never written concerning the Glory of God's Absolute Sovereignty than when John Newton said,

“How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed”

And never have we needed God's Sovereignty more than we do in the issue of you and I being given the Grace and the Ability to grasp and trust and believe in the Virgin Conception and Virgin Birth of Jesus. Because what you believe about this issue- affects everything else about you. It is that serious and that important.

In **Matthew 22:42**- Jesus asked the Pharisees a question. And that particular question has been voiced in every generation since. The question Jesus asked was this,

What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?

And that is one of the most important questions that anyone could ever ask or answer. On that particular occasion in **Matthew 22**- the Pharisees answered Him,

The Son of David.

You see, the Jewish religious experts recognized and believed that the Messiah would be a human- who would be a member of the direct lineage of King David- a direct descendant of David. And they were right about that.

That Jesus was certainly a direct descendant of King David was confirmed by none other than the angel Gabriel in **Luke 1:32** where it says, speaking of Jesus,

... the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David

So it was true. Humanly speaking- the Messiah would be a human- born into the family or in the direct line of King David.

But that's as far as the Jews went. They were right about what they said- but they didn't go far enough. They were right about Jesus being a direct descendant of King David- but they were wrong that He

was to be *only* the Son of David. You will notice that Gabriel also tells Mary in verse 32 that Jesus will be called,

... the Son of the Most High...

... and that term was the equivalent of the Hebrew *El Elyon*, which is: "God Most High". And in **Luke 1:35** the angel said:

... for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

You see, the Jews- from the very beginning- gladly affirmed that the Messiah would be the Son of David- but they considered any claim by any human being to be the Son of God- to be blasphemous. So when Jesus claimed to be the Son of God- the Jews accused Him of blasphemy. And it was their horror at Jesus' blasphemy that led them to their rejection and execution of Jesus Christ.

But, in spite of that rejection- the fact of the matter is that the Son born to Mary in David's direct line was also God's Son. He was the God/Man- Son of David through Mary but also Son of God through the Holy Spirit.

Now the Apostle John- in the gospel account that bears his name- approaches the birth of Jesus Christ from the *Divine* side, while both Matthew and Luke's Gospel account approach His birth from the *human* side.

Matthew looks at it from Joseph's side particularly. While Luke looks at it from Mary's side. Matthew records the message of the angel in a dream to Joseph. And Luke records the message of Gabriel to Mary. But the Apostle John looks at Jesus' birth- not from the human side through Joseph or Mary- but from God's side. And so John records the coming of Christ with these words found in **John 1:1-14**:

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.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

- 6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.**
- 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him.**
- 8 He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light.**
- 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.**
- 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.**
- 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,**
- 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**
- 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.**

The Apostle John begins his account of Jesus' birth with a pre-incarnate identification of the Messiah as the eternal Word- Who was with God and Who was God. John said that Jesus was in the beginning with God and that all things came into being by Jesus, and apart from Jesus nothing came into being that has come into being.

In other words, John sees the Messiah's pre-incarnation as being God Himself- the Creator. And John says that Jesus was the source of life- and that Life was the Light of men.

And then John writes one of the most powerful verses in all the Bible. **John 1:14:**

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.

The eternal Word that was always with God and which was God, that eternal Word which was the source of Life and which was the Light of Men, that eternal Word by which all things were created- that eternal Word became flesh- in other words- the eternal always existing Word became human and that human being , John said, dwelt among us. And John said that they beheld Him, they touched the incarnate

God, they walked with Him, ate with Him, listened to Him, and John was blessed to lay his own head on the Breast of the eternal Word made flesh and heard the very heartbeat of God Himself. John said:

... and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John says I saw His Glory and the Glory that Jesus had was the Glory that nobody but the One and Only of the Father could have because that Glory was full of both Grace and Truth. Later on in his first Epistle, this same Apostle John went even further about the reality that God had become man when he said in **1John 1:1-3**:

1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—

2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

The eternal always existing Word that was always with God and that was God became flesh and dwelt among us. And that's John's perspective on the birth of Christ- it was the Word- Who was eternal, becoming flesh and dwelling among us, we beheld not His humanity, John says, but His Glory which was a Glory that belonged only to the Preeminent One- the One and Only of the Father, the one begotten by the Father- full of grace and truth.

So, John looks at the virgin conception of Jesus as God Almighty coming down and entering human flesh. Matthew views the same thing, and so does Luke- but from the human side, while John looks at it from the Spiritual side.

Matthew records very specifically that the child would be God and Man. In **Matthew 1:18-23**- we read how that Joseph is basically amazed that Mary has become pregnant. He is confused and hurt, and probably angry and bewildered. He doesn't know why this has happened. How this could happen- it is so contrary to Mary's character. And Joseph has

never known her, and he only can imagine that she is worthy of either death or divorce.

And that night- in the midst of all his confusion and anger and doubt- the Bible says that the angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and tells him that Mary is with child alright- but not by the normal way. Mary- Joseph's fiancé- is with child by the Holy Spirit. And the angel tells Joseph that the child inside Mary is a Boy, and that she will deliver that Son, and that this particular Birth will fulfill a 600 year old prophecy from **Isaiah 7:14:**

... Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

... which translated means: *God with us*. So Joseph was told by an angel in a dream that this child would be conceived by the Holy Spirit and would be God in flesh.

And that's exactly what Gabriel tells Mary. Go back to our text, **Luke 1:35:**

... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

Now, you may be wondering why I am going over the Virgin Conception and Virgin Birth of Jesus so carefully and with such care. Isn't there anything else that I could be preaching about? I mean what does all this theological stuff have to do with all that we are facing today in the 21st Century?

I mean I could be preaching about how to make more money or how to hit more home runs. I could stand up here and give you a short story with a moral ending to it- kind of like an Aesop's fable, or I could even hire a Christian comedian to come here to crack a few jokes because after all- the joy of the Lord is our strength.

If you have never heard anything else I have said- please hear this. This stuff matters. The issue of the Virgin Conception and Birth has to do with everything about us as believers- including where we will spend eternity. It is critical and foundational to rightly understand the Incarnation if we ever hope to possess the true Christian Faith, and so my effort over the past few weeks and over the next few weeks to drill

into you the majesty and the glory and the power and the value and the importance of this moment in time when God Almighty inserted and imposed Himself into His Own Creation in the womb of a virgin is earnestly contending for that one true Christian Faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints.

We must understand, dear friends, that a real Incarnation of God demands a virgin conception. And therefore, and I'm going to camp on this, this morning, because it's so important. The virgin conception of the God/Man Jesus Christ is the central Truth of Christianity. And on this central Truth is built the whole structure of Christian Theology and the Gospel.

Because if Jesus had a human father, if Jesus was a mere Man- then there is no Gospel and there is no Savior and there is no Salvation, and all the 400 OT prophecies are all lies and Jesus was a liar and you are yet in your sins with absolutely no hope at all.

So this question that Jesus asked back in **Matthew 22** about Whose Son He was is of critical importance. Who's Son is Jesus? The New Testament record says He is God's Son *and* He is Mary's Son, and Mary was in the line of David. A real incarnation demands a virgin conception. If Jesus is to be the God/Man- then it must be God and Man coming together to produce this Life, and that is exactly what the New Testament says happened. Who's Son is Jesus? He is God's Son and David's Son. David's Son as to His humanity, and God's Son as to His Deity.

Now last time we looked at the Foundations of the virgin conception, and I basically gave you three foundations. Some people have said, *"Well, the disciples simply invented this nonsense about the Virgin Conception and Birth to make Jesus look better than he really was."*

And there have been many things thrown at this issue over the centuries so much so that today- a full 45% of those pastors who preach in America's Churches and a full 50% of those students in seminary today categorically reject the notion that Jesus was born of a Virgin.

And last week I went over the three reasons why the Virgin Conception and Birth of Jesus Christ is necessary:

1. The Old Testament promises it
2. The Doctrine of the Trinity provides for it

3. The Person and Work of Jesus Himself confirms it

So the Old Testament promises a virgin-born Messiah, the Trinity provides for it, and the Person and Work of Jesus Himself confirms it. Now- so much for the foundation of the virgin birth.

Now we have come to the second point- the *False Teaching About the Virgin Birth*.

"Well, why in the world are you going to go through all of this, Brother Blair?" Because these false teachings are not true, they are error, and I want to go through it for two reasons:

1. I want you to understand what has been cast at Christianity to attack and assault the virgin birth so you will be ready to deal with it when you see it.
2. I want you to understand how critically important the doctrine of the virgin birth or virgin conception of Jesus is. And one of the ways that demonstrates how important it is, is to understand the massive satanic onslaught and attack against this doctrine.

You see, dear friends, the Virgin Conception and Birth of Jesus is not peripheral. This is not just some fringe of Christianity. This issue is not negotiable. This is the heart and soul of the Gospel. You must have a God/Man, you must have a virgin conception therefore for Him to be Son of David, Son of God. This then is under attack by Satan because it is the foundation of our gospel and of the Christian faith.

Now, you need to know that the virgin Conception is assaulted in two ways:

1. By outright denial
2. By counterfeiting.

And I want to address both of those. And I think you'll find this fascinating.

Firstly, we know that all the Truth of God's Word is going to be outright denied by satan and all his children. Satan's strategy is to lie and lie and lie, and deceive and undermine the Truth. The Apostle Paul, writing to Timothy in **1Timothy 4**, says that in the later times, that some people are going to fall away from the Faith because they pay

attention to deceitful spirits, doctrines of demons and hypocritical liars. Now keep in mind that this doesn't mean that these are saved people who lose their Salvation. No, these are lost people who lose their ability to know the Truth because they have been deceived by the process of false teaching.

You see, these lies, these heresies, these false teachings come from deceitful spirits. Energized by demons- these lies find their way into the lives of false teachers who teach them, and, consequently, people fall away from hearing and knowing the true Faith into these destructive lies.

And the Bible says that as time goes on and as the Truth becomes more obscure and more hidden- things get worse and worse. **2Timothy 3:13** says that they are being deceived more and more as time goes on. **2Peter 2** describes these false teachers in great detail. It says they are destructive in their heresies and they deny the Master who bought them. Again, this phrase is not talking about saved people but it is referring to Jesus as being the only One Who buys the souls of men- so in reality- these people have never been bought.

And what is fascinating is that the assault against the Truth by these heretics is almost always directed against the Person of Jesus Christ- the dual Nature of Jesus- in either His full Humanity or His full Deity.

For example- **Jude 4** says these evil men deny that Jesus is Master and Lord. So in reality- all of false teaching is directed at assaulting Jesus Christ. He is the focus. And so they attack the Virgin Conception and the Virgin Birth.

And the reason that they do this is because if they can sow doubt into people's minds about Jesus being born of a virgin- then that would also mean that He is not God. And if Jesus is not God- then the Gospel is not true. So if your goal is to discredit or destroy the Gospel- you have to start with the dual Nature of Jesus Christ.

So they inevitably assault Christ and that assault begins with the idea of the Biblical truth that He is virgin Conceived and Virgin Born.

For example, Nels Ferre, a well-known liberal theologian, in his notorious volume called *The Christian Understanding of God* claimed that Jesus was *not* the natural Son of Joseph, but rather he claims that Jesus was the illegitimate child of a Roman soldier. He explains Joseph's confusion over Mary's pregnancy by the fact that she had been

unfaithful to her betrothal vow and gotten pregnant by a passing encounter with a Roman soldier. Of course, Ferre was invited to speak on all the news programs for his tremendous insight and wisdom.

The rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which does everything possible to blaspheme the Nature of Jesus Christ, has a song sung by the character playing Mary Magdalene which has a line that is repeated over and over,

"He's a man, just a man...He's a man, just a man."

... and that is ever and always the message of Satan against the Nature of Christ.

But this assault against the Nature of Jesus didn't start in modern times- it started long ago. Turn in your Bible to **John 8** for a moment. In **John 8** at the beginning of the chapter, the religious leaders, the Pharisees, in particular, confront a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. Now look at verse 4:

John 8:4&5

4 ... Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?

Now the Pharisees couldn't care less what the Truth of God was concerning this situation- they were not seeking to obey God- they were simply trying to trap Jesus into either discrediting the Law of Moses or into some other sin so they could accuse Him. Now look at **John 8:6-11:**

6 ... But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.

7 But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him *be the first to throw a stone at her.*"

8 Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 When they heard it, they *began* to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of *the court.*

10 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?"

11 She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.”

Now I'm sure there were people who heard that. Some people think that might have been setup even, that they were really exposing what they *believed* to be the truth about Jesus- that He Himself was a child of adultery- that He Himself was a child of sexual sin. And they may well have seen Him being gracious to that woman as reflective of His own necessity, of tolerance for adultery, because He Himself was an illegitimate child.

Now some would say, *“That's pretty vague, Brother Blair.”* And it may well be vague in that passage- but go down to verse 41. And as you follow along in what's going on in this chapter- Jesus confronts them directly, verse 41,

“You are doing the deeds of your father.” They said to Him, “We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God.”

Now what exactly are they saying here? Why did they bring that up? They were saying, *“At least we aren't illegitimate.”* Now it's possible the Pharisees were simply saying that they were the true children of God. But they also could have meant *“At least we are not illegitimate **like you are**”*. That may have been what was on their mind here- At least we aren't illegitimate like you, Jesus.

Now go down to verse 48, and it gets even more direct:

The Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

Whoa! Now why did they say that? Do you know what a Samaritan was? A Samaritan was somebody who was half Jewish and half Gentile. In other words- a half breed. You see, a Samaritan wasn't good enough to fit in with the real Jews, but he was too good to fit in with the Gentiles- so he really didn't belong anywhere.

And there's sort of a flow in this chapter that would lead us to believe that the Pharisees may well have come to the conclusion that all those rumors about Joseph not being the father of Jesus while Mary was the mother- all of these vicious and evil stories had been known

and certainly had been discussed in the circles around Nazareth and beyond.

Mary herself would have no doubt told many people that she conceived Jesus by the Holy Spirit and not by Joseph. And probably fewer people believed it then than do today. And it all would have come out, of course, because of the betrothal, and she was pregnant before the wedding ever occurred, and everybody who was involved at the wedding would have known and that would be a community event- and so there as a real push to try to find a natural explanation of this because a Virgin Conception was just too farfetched to be plausible.

And so these false rumors about Jesus' birth would have circulated and it would have been that along the way- some of the Pharisees would have been exposed to them because they were scattered throughout the land, and it would have been the most logical conclusion that Mary had simply committed adultery and this conception and birth was not by the Power of God.

The lie that had circulated through the region was that Jesus was an illegitimate Son of some Gentile who had cohabitated with an unfaithful Mary. After all, Nazareth was located just off the main highway between Jerusalem and the Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon. And the highway was traversed all the time by Roman soldiers and they went to Nazareth on occasion. And Nazareth was a place that had a bad reputation. It was a place that was notorious for corruption and vice. That's why in **John 1:46** the question is asked,

Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?

Nazareth was full of Roman soldiers and Greek merchants and it was known for its vice.

And maybe that's where this whole thing began to develop to assault the Deity of Jesus Christ even then, and mock Him by saying, *"Well at least we weren't born out of pornea or fornication."*

And it was out of that lie that grew a strange tradition called the "Pandera Tradition". Pandera was supposedly the name of the soldier who lay with Mary and produced the child. You can read about it in sixth and eleventh century Jewish writings. The whole story became very refined in the future as a way to explain away Jesus as a non-Messiah- because the Jews having always rejected Him as Messiah.

And there as another lie that this Pandera name got going- another false rumor that said that Mary's husband was actually named Joseph Pandera.

Now not everybody wanted to make Mary look really bad, so they wanted her to have a husband named Joseph Pandera. And that lie really didn't stop people from saying even more blasphemous lies because there is another legend that says that there was a neighbor named Jochenan, and he went in and seduced Mary, but here's how he did it.

Wanting to protect Mary because she was Jewish, some of the Jewish writers said, *"Well, one night she was sleeping in her bed and Joseph was away in the night and the neighbor seeing Joseph depart in the night crept in when Mary was in bed, and she thought it was her husband and she conceived."* Joseph when he found out, according to the legend stayed until the birth and then deserted the family, but Mary always believed that Joseph was the real father. Well that's another one of those wacky bizarre fabrications.

Now the purpose of these stories, and I could go on and on with others, but the purpose of these blasphemous stories is singular, it is to deny Jesus as God. And you need to know that. None of these stories are any attempt at all at getting to the Truth or to accurately record the facts of History- no, they are simply very lame efforts by evil people to reject the Deity of Jesus Christ by casting doubt on the Virgin Conception and Birth.

All these people really want to do is to deny Jesus as God, to remove His claim to Deity, His kingly right, and His Divine Nature. And, of course, that's all a satanic agenda.

Now about 40 years ago- Hugh Schonfield wrote the very widely read book called *The Passover Plot*. And it was as if people had been waiting for years for somebody to write a book that they could buy into as an explanation of the New Testament concept of the Virgin Birth that they could tolerate in their lost depraved minds- because The Passover Plot became an instant best seller. It was as if Schonfield served all the unbelievers, and all the Christ-haters, and all the rejecters of the Gospel well by giving them an alternative explanation for what the New Testament said.

Now it should not surprise you that Hugh Schonfield is a Jewish writer. He claimed that Jesus, first of all, was the natural son of Joseph

and Mary. And that Jesus became a master conspirator. And that's the main idea of The Passover Plot. Jesus was a smart guy and He figured out a plot, a really master conspirator who conspired to fulfill messianic prophecies, to engineer what looked like the fulfillment of messianic prophecies. And the whole reason that Schonfield wrote the book was to exonerate the Jews from having to deny the Deity of Jesus Christ. You see they cannot deny that they wanted to kill Jesus, but it is unthinkable to Jewish people that they would be guilty of killing God.

The thought that the Jews actually wanted to murder God creates tremendous hostility in the minds of many Jewish people that the Jews of the time of Jesus wanted Jesus executed, and in pressuring the Romans to execute Him they actually executed God.

So, Schonfield said he wanted to deliver the Jewish people from that stigma, and, so, in order to do that he sets about to prove that Jesus was not God in the first place. Therefore- according to Schonfield- all the Jews did was kill a false claimant, a conspirator, a fraud- who was attempting by tricks and narcotics to convince people that He was the Messiah when, in fact, He really wasn't.

Now you have to know that most all of the people who attack the Nature of Jesus and the Virgin Conception and Birth of Jesus have absolutely no evidence to support their false stories- they just say them as though by saying them- it will make them true.

There are those who say that the Bible writers actually did believe in the virgin birth, but they were just wrong- that by deceptive means they recorded their wrong beliefs into the Bible.

And because Mankind is naturally evil and fallen- people will believe a lie more quickly than they will ever believe the Truth.

For example, in his book, Schoenfield says, and I quote,

"There was nothing peculiar about the birth of Jesus, He was not God incarnate and no virgin mother bore Him. The church in its ancient zeal fathered a myth and became bound to it as dogma."

Now, what does Schonfield use to support that statement? Nothing but his own personal hatred of Jesus. No manuscripts, no archeological evidence, no evidence at all. He simply makes that blasphemous statement about the Nature of Jesus, and people flock to him and buy his book as though he's some genius.

Another liberal seminary professor- Thomas David Boslooper wrote a very strange statement about Jesus when he said,

"The virgin birth is a myth in the highest and best sense of the word,"

Now what is that supposed to mean? What is the highest and best sense of a myth? What is that? That's a very strange phrase. It makes you wonder why anybody would pay good money to sit and listen to this man.

But so many professors today in the modern Seminaries get all excited about their own self-importance and engage in what they call "demythologizing the Bible," which is an evil effort to take all the miracles out of the Bible- including the Nature of Jesus.

In other words- in their academic pride and in their blatant and sinful unbelief these people who teach and train tomorrows preachers actually think they're engaging in a scholarly enterprise when all they are really doing is disbelieving the Word of God.

And one of the most "in your face" Truths of Scripture that these wicked men work so hard to get out of the Bible is the virgin conception and the Virgin Birth of Jesus. So they demythologize the Bible by stripping it of the virgin conception which in effect- strips Jesus of His deity, and then Time Magazine lauds them as being wise and great people. But they are not wise and they are not great- they are fools who for some unknown reason spend their lives trying to attack the Savior of the world instead of falling before Him and loving and serving Him.

Schoenfield says that the virgin birth takes the Christian out of the world of sober reality into the world of fairy tales. No it doesn't. Believing and trusting in the Virgin Birth as a cornerstone of Biblical Christianity takes a person out of the realm of sin and unbelief, and brings him into the Light which is the life of men.

Another Schoenfield charge is that the evangelical church has applied to its eyes the very dust of faith.

Another guy who lives his life for no other reason other than to attack Jesus – is the Episcopalian Bishop, Eugene Robinson. Along with being the very first openly homosexual who has been officially ordained as a bishop- Mr. Robinson goes out of his way to attack the Virgin Birth- ranking this Biblical Truth alongside Andy Capp comics. He says both are of the same kind of myth.

Well, obviously these Christ deniers deny what Scripture says, of course. And the reason they deny what Scripture says is so that they can deny the Deity of Christ and to do that they have to deny the virgin conception and Birth.

These antichrist people say that the Bible would be a lot easier to believe without all the miracles, and Jay Gresham Mechan said,

"Yeah, but it wouldn't be worth believing."

A Christ without a virgin conception would be no Christ at all. And Christianity would simply be another empty man-made philosophy.

So that's the first way that the devil attacks the truth about the Virgin Conception and Birth- he just outright denies it.

But there's a second way in which Satan attacks the virgin conception- and that's by counterfeiting it. And these efforts are more subtle, and it's kind of interesting how well this strategy has worked. I find this fascinating.

You see, dear friends, Satan is a very accurate interpreter of Scripture. Do you understand that? Satan knows that every Word in Scripture is true and he knows that because he knows that God is truth and that He cannot lie because Satan himself dwelt in the Presence of God before his fall. So Satan knows God very well. He knows the Character of God, the Truthfulness of God, and he knows the Word of God very well. And another thing is that unlike so many in the modern Church- Satan is an outstanding expositor of the Holy Bible- he possesses the correct interpretation of every single verse in Scripture.

For example- there may be some Bible teachers today who don't understand **Genesis 3:15**- but Satan does. Satan definitely understands it. I believe with all my heart that when God cursed the man and cursed the woman, and then said to Satan,

He shall bruise you on the head

... I believe that the devil knew perfectly what was going to happen. The seed of the woman, **Genesis 3:15**- the first prophecy of the Messiah- that a woman would have a seed. Women don't have a seed. That's a prophecy of the virgin birth. And I think Satan understood that.

And some would ask, *“Why do you think that the devil knew what that meant, Brother Blair?”*

I believe that because immediately after receiving that curse from God- satan began to go out in to the world and deceive people into manufacturing counterfeit virgin births all over the world. You see, long before **Isaiah 7:14** said specifically that a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and His name will be “God with us”, long before Isaiah said that, long before Jeremiah said a woman would encompass a man, long before any of those specific prophecies about the Virgin Conception and Virgin Birth of Jesus- satan began to counterfeit the virgin birth. Please turn with me to read **Genesis 10:8&9**

8 Now Cush became the father of Nimrod; he became a mighty one on the earth.

9 He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the LORD.”

The man named Nimrod- who is mentioned here in **Genesis** was a might hunter before or *against* the Lord. The way that the Hebrew actually reads here is that Nimrod was a might hunter *against* the Lord in that he hunted the souls of men.

Nimrod is the man, you remember, who organized the building of the Tower of Babel, and he had a wife named Semiramis. Semiramis was the very first occult priestess. And according to Babylonian legend, Semiramis, wife of Nimrod, conceived a son whose name was Tammuz. And Tammuz is mentioned in both **Ezekiel 8** and **Jeremiah 44**.

And Semiramis, the occult priestess, was identified as *“The Queen of Heaven”*. And we find false worship of Semiramis, the so called “Queen of heaven”, in **Jeremiah 7** and **Jeremiah 44**.

Now where have you heard that term used in our day- *“The Queen of Heaven”*? In Roman Theology about Mary, right? Roman Theology has wrongly and sinfully elevated Mary to be the “Queen of Heaven”, right? But that term is not used in Scripture to describe Mary- it is used in **Jeremiah 7 & 44** and in ancient Babylonian writings to describe Semiramis.

Now what the Babylonian legend said was that Semiramis, wife of Nimrod, conceived a son- not by Nimrod- but by a sunbeam. She had a supernatural conception which produced a son- Tammuz- who is

mentioned in both **Ezekiel 8** and **Jeremiah 44**. So Tammuz was the first counterfeit Virgin Conception and Birth- propagated by satan and the demonic religion of Babylon.

And that legend, by the way, has proliferated everywhere. That's where the entire "mother/child" cult started. It started with Semiramis. Here is Semiramis with this child conceived by a sunbeam in her womb.

So, first it is Semiramis and Tammuz. And then, if you go to Egypt, the same story exists- only the names change to Isis and Osiris in the pagan religion of the Ancient Egyptians. And then if you go to India- it's the same story only it's Ecee and Esuara. If you go to China it's the same story only it's Ching Moo- the holy mother with the child in her arms. And you see that in many Chinese paintings. And then if you go to Phoenicia it's the same story- it's Asteroth and her son, Baal.

And we know about Phoenicia because the Phoenicians were the original Palestinians- the original occupants of the nation of Palestine- whom God told Joshua to move off the Promised Land, and there is much in the OT about Asteroth and Baal and the idolatrous worship of those false gods.

And if you go to Greece it's the same story only it's Aphrodite and she's holding Eros. I mean, it's everywhere so much so that when Christianity comes and says, *"We have a virgin-born Savior."* The world says, *"Yeah, we do too."*

We say, *"We have a Savior Who was conceived by God in the womb of the Virgin Mary."* And they say, *"Yeah, we have one too, conceived by a sunbeam or right out of Heaven."*

The same is true about Buddhism and Hinduism and Greco Roman mythology- they are all the same- satan knew what was coming- so he put up all kinds of smoke screens and counterfeits.

Now I said all of that to say this. The world has literally been covered with false mother/child cults throughout history- all brought forth by an angry serpent who is cursed by God- who knew that a Divine seed would be placed in the womb of a Virgin who would come to bruise his head.

And I say to you that what Roman Catholicism does with Mary is more of this effort to counterfeit the true than it is anything Biblical. That ancient false mother/child cult mentality that is a part of the satanic deception of the false religions of the world found its way into a

quasi-Christian environment and got all mixed up with Mary. And I'm going to say more about that next time.

Now why am I going through all this? Because I want you to understand that this doctrine of virgin conception is so important that Satan has been doing everything he can possibly do to either deny it or to literally defuse it into a whole world of myths so that it looks like something utterly insignificant and not at all uncommon. And he has been successful in many areas so that today the Biblical Truth about the Virgin Conception and Birth of Jesus is looked at by many as just another myth and just another legend.

But do you know what is so wonderful? The Bible just doesn't bother with all of that. In **Luke 1:35** it just simply says,

... The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

And that's the entire description of the virgin conception right there. There's no attempt to sort that all out from all of Satan's lies- it's just so pure, so clear, so clean, and so precise.

So I ask you this morning- *"Do you know this Virgin Conceived Son? Has this Sinless Virgin Born Savior washed your sins away? Have you put your full trust in the finished Work of Jesus, or are you still trusting in yourself? Do you worship Jesus by obeying what He said? Do you love Him enough to submit your ways to Him?" Trust in Jesus today. Repent of your sins. Come to God broken and spiritually bankrupt- confessing your sins to God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and believe that God has raised Him from the dead and thou shalt be saved.*

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.