



Is Jesus Virgin Birth Myth or Truth?

Q: Does history support the Bible story?

1. The **CENSUS**

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken...the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria." (Luke 2:1-3)

There was a census during Augustus reign (Acts of Augustus)
under direction of Quirinius in Palestine (Josephus Antiquities 90AD)

2. The **SLAUGHTER**

"Herod...gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under" (Matt. 2:16)

4th c Macrobius: "When (Augustus) heard that Herod king of the Jews had ordered all the boys in Syria under the age of two years put to death..."

3. The **LIFE**

52 AD Thallus "Chronicles"; 75 AD Mara bar Serapion; 93 AD Flavius Josephus
112 AD Pliny; 116 AD Tacitus "Annals"; 120 AD Suetonius "Lives of Caesars"

150 AD: Justin Martyr: "Now there is a village in the land of the Jews, thirty five stadia from Jerusalem, in which Jesus Christ was born, as you can ascertain also from the registers of the taxing made under Cyrenius"

Q: Wasn't the virgin birth idea added later?

1. 700 BC Predicted By **ISAIAH**:

"the Lord himself will give you a sign: The **virgin will be with child**" (Isa 7:14)

2. 55-70 AD Documented By **APOSTLES**:

"(Mary) was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit...Joseph...had no union with her until she gave birth to a son" (Mt. 1:18,24,25) Lk 1:27-37; Mk 6:3; Paul: Gal. 4:4

3. 70 AD Ridiculed By **RABBIS**: "bastard son of an adulteress"

4. 115 AD Defended By **CHRISTIANS**:

115 A.D. Ignatius: "Our God, Jesus the Christ, was conceived in the womb by Mary...of the Holy Ghost" "Our Lord is truly of the race of David according to the flesh, but the Son of God by the divine will and power, truly born of a virgin"

150 AD: Aristides to Emperor Antonius: "the Son of the most high God..."

descended from heaven, born of a Hebrew virgin"

Q: Don't other religions have similar myths?

- about creatures who **NEVER EXISTED**
- about sex between gods & women; not a virgin birth
- resulting creatures who were flawed failures, not heroes
- **MYTHOLOGICAL** elements are absent from Bible narrative

How do you explain the origin & acceptance of a virgin birth?

Q: Why should I believe the impossible?

1. Birth **CITY** Predicted

"But you, **Bethlehem** out of you will come...one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are...from ancient times" (Micah 5:2)

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea" (Matthew 2:1)

2. Birth **FAMILY** Predicted

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Abraham (Gen. 22:15,18) | Isaac (Gen. 21:12) | Jacob (Num. 24:17) |
| Judah (Gen. 49:10) | Jesse (Isa. 11:1-3) | David (Jer. 23:5) |

"Jesus...the son of David...of Jesse...of Judah...of Jacob...of Isaac...of Abraham" (Luke 3)

3. Birth **IDENTITY** Predicted (Matt 1:23; Isaiah 7:14)

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will...give birth to a **son** and they will call him **Immanuel** which means, 'God with us'"

"For to us a child is born, to us a **son** is given...he will be...**Mighty God**, Everlasting Father" (Isaiah 9:6) "You are to give him the name Jesus. He will be...called the **Son of the Most High...the Son of God**" (Luke 1:32,35)

4. Other **FULFILLED** Predictions

- Herod's slaughter of The children (Jer.31:15; Matt. 2:16-18)
- Joseph & Mary's escape to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matt. 2:13-15)
- Prior birth of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3; Matt. 3:1-3)

Q: What did **JESUS** say about his birth?

He shared God's glory before his birth (John 17:5)

He existed 2000 years before his birth (John 8:58)

He was sent from heaven to earth at this birth (John 6:38,40)

"For I have **come down from heaven**... to do the will of him who sent me...
For my Fathers will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life."