

Christology

Lesson 2

Study Notes

The Virgin Birth Incarnation of Jesus Christ

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Text: II John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Introduction: The Bible declares that Jesus was as much God as if He had never been man, and as much man as if He had never been God. This is known as the hypostatic union. There is no earthly analogy that can be used to illustrate this supernatural birth and union.

In the one person, Jesus Christ, there are two natures; a human nature and a divine nature, each in its completeness and integrity, and these two natures are organically and indissolubly united, yet so that no third nature is formed thereby (A. H. Strong Systematic Theology, p. 673).

He always says, I, me, mine. He is always addressed as thou, thee, thine. He is always spoken of as He, His, Him.

The miracle of the virgin birth was not the actual birth, but rather the _____ of Christ's earthly body.

Luke 1:30-35

Note: We do not speak of the virgin birth as the "Immaculate Conception" the doctrine that God preserved the Virgin Mary from the taint of original _____ from the moment she was _____; it was defined as a dogma of the Roman Catholic Church in 1854.

I. Some False Views of the Incarnation.

A. Ebionites. They denied the reality of Jesus' _____ nature.

The Ebionites embraced an adoptionist Christology, thus understanding Jesus of Nazareth as a mere man who, by virtue of his righteousness in following the Law of Moses, was chosen by God to be the messianic "prophet like Moses" They rejected the Virgin Birth of Jesus, instead holding that he was the natural son of Joseph and Mary. The Ebionites believed Jesus became the Messiah because he obeyed the Jewish Law.

B. Gnostics. They denied the reality of Jesus' _____ nature.

The Gnostics, believed that you couldn't just say you were a follower of Jesus and expect to go to heaven after death. Instead, you had to purify yourself until you achieved gnosis: experiential _____ of the divine reality.

C. Arians. They affirmed Jesus' preexistence but denied His _____.

Arius taught that Jesus Christ was divine/holy and was sent to earth for the salvation of mankind but that Jesus Christ was not equal to God the Father in rank and that God the Father and the Son of God were not _____ to the Holy Spirit.

Nestorians. They believed two persons actually indwelt the body of Christ, the _____ person and the _____ person.

According to Nestorius, Jesus is the union of two persons—a human person and a divine person. This is not a union of essences but rather a close moral union. In other words, Nestorius believed the union was not such that we could say the _____ of Jesus actually belongs to the Son of God.

D. Eutychians.

The Eutychians went to the opposite extreme and said both the natures (the human and divine) mingled to make up a _____ and totally different nature from the original two natures.

II. Some Prophecies Concerning the Incarnation.

A. By Isaiah the Prophet.

Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Isaiah 9:6-7.

B. Micah the Prophet.

Micah 5:2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

Heavenly Announcements Given in the New Testament.

1. To Zacharias.

Luke 1:17 *And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

Luke 1:76 *And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;*

2. To Mary.

Luke 1:31 *And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.*

Luke 1:35 *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*

3. To Elisabeth.

Luke 1:41-42 *And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: 42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*

4. To Joseph.

Matthew 1:20-21 *But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

5. To the Shepherds.

Luke 2:8 -12.

6. To the Wise Men.

Matthew 2:1-2 *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, 2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

7. To Simeon.

Luke 2:25-26 *And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

8. To Anna.

Luke 2:36-38 *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

III. Some Reasons Christ Was Born in Bethlehem.

A. *The prophetic reason.*

Micah would predict the place some _____ centuries before.

B. *The symbolical reason.*

The name "Bethlehem" means "_____ " what better place for the Bread of Life to be born.

C. *The historical reason.*

Jacob's final son was born here. His mother called him Benoni, meaning, "_____," while his father named him Benjamin, "son of my right hand." Centuries later Jesus would also be known as a man of sorrows, and the son of His Father's right hand.

Boaz was born here, who would later become the great-grandfather of _____.

David was born here, from whose line the Savior Himself would come.