

Scholars Crossing

The Second Person File

Theological Studies

10-2017

What are Some Reasons for the Virgin Birth Incarnation?

Harold Willmington *Liberty University*, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person

Part of the Biblical Studies Commons, Christianity Commons, Practical Theology Commons, and the Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons

Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "What are Some Reasons for the Virgin Birth Incarnation?" (2017). *The Second Person File*. 41.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/second_person/41

This The Incarnation of Jesus Christ is brought to you for free and open access by the Theological Studies at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Second Person File by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

What are some reasons for the virgin birth incarnation?

• To reveal the invisible God:

"No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18).

"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John 14:9).

God loved the world, and how could He get His message across? He sent Jesus into the world to become man and tell God's story in man's language to reveal the invisible God.

• To fulfill prophecy:

We have already seen many Old Testament prophecies which were fulfilled at Bethlehem. In addition to those there are at least thirty additional prophecies in regards to Jesus' earthly ministry, suffering, death, regeneration, ascension, second coming, and millennial reign. But not one of all these could have been fulfilled without His incarnation!

• To guarantee the Davidic Covenant:

In 2 Samuel 7, David was discouraged because he wanted to build the temple, and the Lord would not allow him to do so. Because he was a man of war, the Lord would instead allow his son, Solomon, to build the temple. However, God promised David something far more precious, and it was what theologians refer to today as the Davidic Covenant. This covenant assured David that someday an heir from his own seed would rule over Israel on his throne forever.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

In this scripture from Luke 1, the angel Gabriel reminded Mary of the fact that the incarnation was the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.

• To make a sacrifice for our sins:

Jesus left the ivory palaces of heaven to come down to this world and enter the womb of Mary, to make sacrifice for our sins.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Heb. 2:9).

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me ... By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ

once for all ... But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:4, 5, 10, 12).

"And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin" (1 John 3:5).

"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

To reconcile man to God:

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (2 Cor. 5:19).

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2:5, 6).

• To provide an example for believers:

We are told in the scriptures that Christ suffered, that He left an example for us, that we should follow His steps. The world often misunderstands the incarnation. The world thinks Christ is the example for unbelievers. That's not what 1 Peter 2:21 says. It says that Christ has come to be an example for believers. He is not an example for unbelievers. He is the Savior. He came to *save* unbelievers and make them believers. Once we are saved we study the life of Christ because He is our example. But there could be no example apart from the incarnation.

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:6).

• To provide the believer with a high priest:

In order to provide believers with a high priest, it was necessary that Christ should be made like unto His brethren. He passed sinlessly through all human experiences, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make atonement for our sins. He was obliged to become completely like His brethren—apart from sin, of course.

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17).

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus" (Heb. 3:1).

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).

• To destroy the devil and his works:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).

• To escape the historical curse:

1. Upon Adam's seed

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12).

2. Upon King Jehoiakim and his son, Jehoiachin

Both King Jehoiakim and his son, Jehoiachin, were wicked rulers (Jer. 22:30; Jer. 36:27-31). They were both judged by God and warned that their physical seed would never prosper upon the throne of David. Jesus escaped that judgment by being born of a virgin.

• To preach, heal, and liberate:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18, 19).

• To give life—abundant life:

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

• To glorify the Father:

"Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him" (John 13:31).

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13).

"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do" (John 17:4).