

Matthew 1:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Analysis

The phrase 'birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise' introduces the supernatural conception that distinguishes Christ from all other descendants in the genealogy. The discovery that Mary was 'with child of the Holy Ghost' before consummation demonstrates that Jesus' divine nature preceded His human nature, fulfilling Isaiah 7:14.

Historical Context

In Jewish culture, betrothal was legally binding though the couple didn't live together. Discovery of pregnancy during betrothal would normally result in divorce or death by stoning. This context heightens Joseph's dilemma and God's intervention.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the virgin birth demonstrate that salvation is God's work, not human effort?
2. What comfort do you find in knowing God intervened in an impossible situation?

Interlinear Text

Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γέννησις οὕτως ἦν.
G3588 Now of Jesus Christ G3588 the birth on this wise was
G1161 G2424 G5547 G1083 G3779 G2258

Μνηστευθείσης γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοὺς, Μαρίας τῷ
was espoused When as G3588 mother his Mary G3588
G3423 G1063 G3384 G846 G3137

Ἰωσῆφ, πρὶν ἦ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς, εὑρέθη ἐν
to Joseph before G2228 came together his she was found with child
G2501 G4250 G4905 G846 G2147 G1722

γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος ἀγίου
G1064 G2192 of Ghost the Holy G40
G1537 G4151

Additional Cross-References

Job 14:4 (Parallel theme): Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

Hebrews 10:5 (Parallel theme): Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

Genesis 3:15 (Parallel theme): And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Job 15:14 (Parallel theme): What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

Hebrews 7:26 (Holy): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Luke 1:25 (Parallel theme): Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

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