

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	αὐτοῦς,	Μαρίας	τῷ	
was espoused	When as	G3588	mother	his	Mary	G3588	
G3423	G1063		G3384	G846	G3137		
Ἰωσήφ,	πρὶν	ἢ	συνελθεῖν	αὐτοῦς,	εὗρέθη	ἐν	
to Joseph	before	G2228	came together	his	she was found	with child	
G2501	G4250		G4905	G846	G2147	G1722	
γαστρὶ	ἔχουσα	ἐκ	Πνεύματος	ἁγίου			
G1064	G2192	of	Ghost	the Holy			
		G1537	G4151	G40			

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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