

Matthew 1:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son:
and he called his name JESUS.

Analysis

The phrase 'knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn' affirms both the virgin birth and implies normal marital relations afterward. The term 'firstborn' indicates Mary had other children (Matthew 13:55-56), contradicting perpetual virginity doctrines. This verse safeguards Christ's unique conception while affirming the goodness of marriage as designed by God.

Historical Context

In Jewish culture, 'knowing' was a euphemism for sexual relations. The emphasis on Joseph's abstinence until after Jesus' birth protects the doctrine of virgin birth from any skepticism.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why is the virgin birth essential to the doctrine of the Incarnation?
2. How does this verse affirm both the miraculous conception of Christ and the normal goodness of marriage?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτοῦ ἔως οὗ ἔτεκεν τὸν
And not knew her till G3739 she had brought forth G3588
G2532 G3756 G1097 G846 G2193 G5088

νιὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν πρωτότοκον· καὶ ἐκάλεσεν τὸ ὄνομα
son her G3588 firstborn And he called G3588 name
G5207 G846 G4416 G2532 G2564 G3686

αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν

her JESUS
G846 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 13:2 (Parallel theme): Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

Exodus 22:29 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

Matthew 1:21 (References Jesus): And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Luke 2:21 (References Jesus): And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:7 (Parallel theme): And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.