

THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

Some people do not accept the belief of the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, because of an apparent silence of St. Mark, St. John and St. Paul upon the subject. They think it strange that this belief, considered so essential to Christianity, is not dealt with by these writers.

But the silence is only apparent, for the Disciple John in his prologue to the Gospel, speaks of "The Word becoming flesh," John 1:14. The Apostle Paul also says that "God was manifest in the flesh," I Tim. 3:16. Neither of these statements could be true apart from the Virgin Birth, for had Joseph been the progenitor of Jesus, then the Holy Spirit could not have been, except in the same way in which he is the giver of life to all men born of man and of woman.

The relative silence of the Virgin Birth can also be understood in that many other facts of Christ's early life have not been mentioned. His Sonship, for example, was not to be established by the report of His early life, but by His Work-His Word-and His Resurrection.

To speak of the silence of the Gospel accounts concerning the Virgin Birth, one must also consider the message of the angel who appeared to Zacharias saying, "Thy wife, Elizabeth shall bear thee a Son," and to Abraham, "As for Sarah Thy wife, I will bless her and give her a son also of her." But to Joseph, the angel said, "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." The angel did not say, "Thy wife Mary shall bear a Son." Joseph knew that it was not his son and the explanation given from above is that the conception of birth was of the Holy Spirit.

But even then, this argument of silence is not conclusive unless there is absolute silence. To speak of the silence of the Scriptures on a subject while there is yet one word about it, is no argument at all. And there is a word concerning this miraculous birth. It is first of all found in Isaiah 7:14:"Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." And this word is found again in the New Testament. It is the word spoken to Joseph, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins," St. Matthew 1:21. Only one born of miraculous birth could be the Savior of the World. This was the spotless Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world.