

**A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke**  
**Teaching #11: Why Was Jesus Born Of A Virgin?**

*How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*  
Luke 1:34

The angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth the Christ, the one of the Jewish Scriptures who would come from the line of David to reign as King and establish the kingdom of God on earth (Luke 1:26-33; see also Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 30:14-16; Micah 5:2-4; Zechariah 9:9-10).

**Mary's Question (Luke 1:34)**

*How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

Mary asks the angel Gabriel how will she give birth to the King, prophesied about in Isaiah 9:6-7, since she is a virgin.

**The Angel's Answer (Luke 1:35-37)**

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."*

**Mary's Response (Luke 1:38)**

*"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.*

**Why Was Jesus Born Of A Virgin?**

**Two Reason Jesus Had To Born Of A Virgin**

**Reason #1:** Jesus had to be born sinless so he could take the sinfulness of humanity upon himself at the cross.

**Reason #2:** Jesus had to be born spiritually alive so he could bring spiritual life to the human race.

Let's examine this.

**When Adam sinned, sin and death entered the human race.**

**Genesis 2:16-17** says,

*And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."*

God put the tree in the Garden of Eden to provide humanity with the choice to be or not to be in relationship with him. When God created humanity, he did not create us with built-in technology that automatically programmed us to love him and live in relationship with him.

Rather, God created us in his image, which is an image of love (God is love). Love is not love unless someone has the opportunity to leave a relationship. So the tree of the knowledge of good and evil provided humanity with the opportunity to leave a relationship with God and live independently from him. However, God lovingly warned Adam that if he ate of the tree, he would die.

Just as water is the source of life for a fish, God is the source of life for humanity. Separating humanity from God is like separating a fish from the water. As soon as a fish is separated from the water, the process of death begins in the fish. In the same way, as soon as humanity was separated from God, the process of physical death entered humanity.

When Adam ate of the tree, sin entered the human race, resulting in not only physical death but also spiritual death...spiritually disconnected from God (Ephesians 2:1).

We gain much insight into death in Romans 5:12-21.

### **Two Insights From Romans 5:12-21**

**Insight #1:** Sin entered the world through the man Adam, then is passed through men to all who are born.

#### **Romans 5:12**

*Therefore, **just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin**, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.*

**Insight #2:** Sin is **not** passed from a woman to child but is passed from the man to a child.

When Jesus was born, he was born without sin because he was born of the virgin Mary. He was born spiritually alive and connected to God relationally. Therefore, as a sinless human (though he was also fully God – see Hebrews 1-2), he could solve humanity's sin problem.

This is much like a person who has no financial debt can solve the debt problem of another person by paying his debt. This is what Jesus did for us, but spiritually. We had a sin debt problem. Jesus did not. Jesus paid our sin debt in full on the cross then rose again to solve our death problem.

Let's look at God's solution to solve our sin and death problem.

### **God's Solution to Humanity's Sin and Death Problem**

**Solution #1:** God made a promise to Adam and Eve that he would send a male child into the world who would crush the head of Satan.

#### **Genesis 3:15**

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring (seed) and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

This child is Jesus to whom Mary gave birth.

The child was named Jesus (Jesus means Savior) because he would save us from our sins.

The theme of the Bible is Jesus coming into the human race to restore our relationship with God and to restore the earth to its original sinless, condition. (see 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Acts 3:21).

The angel Gabriel announced to Joseph and Mary that Mary would give birth to the Christ (the Savior-King to come into the world as prophesied in the Jewish Scriptures).

The angel told Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their sins.

### **Matthew 1:21**

The angel told Joseph,

*“She [Mary] will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, **because he will save his people from their sins.**”*

Matthew refers to his people, meaning the Jewish people. This is because Matthew’s audience was Jewish. Yet John writes about Jesus saving both Jews and Gentiles from their sins.

### **1 John 2:2 - Holman Christian Standard Bible**

*He Himself is the propitiation for our [Jews] sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world [Gentiles].*

To save us from our sins, Jesus had to be born sinless. A sinful person cannot save sinful people from their sins.

This is much like two drowning people cannot save themselves from drowning. Someone who is not drowning has to rescue them.

Jesus came to rescue us from sin and death.

This is why Jesus was born of a virgin.

Let’s continue to examine God’s solution to humanity’s sin problem.

**Solution #2: God sent Jesus into the world through a virgin so he would be born sinless.**

### **1 Peter 2:21 (Isaiah 53:9)**

**He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.**

### 1 John 3:5

*But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And **in him is no sin.***

### Hebrews 4:15

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—**yet he did not sin.***

**Solution #3 (to humanity's sin and death problem):** God placed our sinfulness upon Jesus so that we could receive his righteousness.

### 2 Corinthians 5:21

*God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Let's look at this verse in context.

### 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become [emerge forth in the Greek] the righteousness of God.*

*Reconciled* is when God removed the sin barrier that once separated himself from the people of the world. Our sins were placed upon Jesus and counted against him at the cross. Therefore, God is no longer counting our sins against us and our sins no longer separate us from God. People are reconciled to God (enter a relationship with God) when they place their faith in Jesus. Not only are people reconciled to God when they place their faith in Jesus, but they also emerge forth as righteous.

The Greek word for ***might become*** is *ginomai*. *Ginomai* means to ***emerge forth***. It also means a ***change in condition***. Those who are in Christ (those who have trusted in Jesus for salvation) have a changed identity. They emerge forth as righteous. Their condition of sinfulness is changed to righteousness. Their identity is no longer a sinner but a righteous one.

Paul in his letter to the Romans explains in great detail how, through faith in Jesus, a person emerges forth as God's righteous one.

### Romans 3:21-24 (NET)

*But now apart from the law the righteousness of God (which is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed – namely, the righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption [the payment of Jesus for our sins] that is in Christ Jesus.*

The law of Moses, the Ten Commandments, could not make a person righteous because no one could obey the law. We all have disobeyed the law in our heads (thoughts), heart (desires), and hands (deeds). Disobeying the law is called sin.

The law is the standard of righteousness. Those who break the law become unrighteous. They become guilty. The penalty for guilt is death. This is all of us (Romans 1-3:20)

However, Jesus faithfully went to the cross for everyone and died our death. Jesus took our sinfulness upon himself and offers us his righteousness. He took our guilt upon himself and offers us his innocence. Through faith in Jesus, we receive the righteousness of Jesus and become innocent of having sinned. This is called justification.

Justification is when God declares people to be righteous when they place their faith in Jesus. Justification is free. Justification is by grace. Grace is the unmerited kindness and unconditional love of God to us through Jesus when Jesus took our sinfulness upon himself at the cross. Through faith in Jesus, we receive his righteousness as a gift of grace. Our condition or identity changes from a sinner to a righteous one of God.

Let's continue to examine God's solution to our sin and death problem.

#### **Solution #4: God provided Jesus as a sacrifice for our sins.**

##### **Genesis 2:21**

*The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*

For Adam and Eve to be clothed in garments of skin, an animal had to be sacrificed. Rather than Adam and Eve immediately dying for their sin of eating of the tree in the garden, an innocent animal paid the price...possibly a lamb.

Jesus, the innocent one, is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

##### **John 1:29**

*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

##### **1 Peter 1:18-21**

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, **but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.** He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.*

##### **Hebrews 7:26-27**

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. **He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.**

### Hebrews 2:9

...he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

### Hebrews 2:14-15

Since the children have flesh and blood, **he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death**—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

- This takes us back to Genesis 2:16-17 – You will surely die.
- It also takes us back to Genesis 3:15 – A male child from a woman of the human race will crush Satan.

### Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. **But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.** Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so **Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many;** and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Through his one sacrifice for all sins, for all people, and for all time, Jesus died our death.

### Hebrews 10:9-14

Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will [establish the new testament of grace where we possess eternal forgiveness of sins]." He sets aside the first [old testament of law] to establish the second [new testament of grace was established by Jesus through his blood that secured eternal forgiveness of sins] . And by that will [the new testament of grace established in the blood of Jesus], **we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.** Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time **one sacrifice for sins,** he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For **by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever [forgiven of all sins and purified from all sins] those who are being [being is not in the Greek manuscripts] made holy.**

The word *being* in Hebrews 10:14 is not in the Greek manuscript. Translations that insert the word *being* are incorrect in their translations of this verse. The New American Standard Bible accurately translates Hebrews 10:14 by omitting the word *being* because it is not in the original manuscripts.

We are not made holy over a period of time. We are made holy (cleansed from all sins, purified from all sins, innocent of all sins, forgiven of all sins) the moment we place our faith in Jesus. This is what is meant by made perfect. And how long have we been made perfect through the sacrifice of Jesus (perfect means cleansed from all sins, purified from all sins, innocent of all sins, forgiven of all sins because of the sacrifice of Jesus)? Forever! Verses such as “*Be holy for I am holy,*” as quoted by Peter in 1 Peter 1:16, was Peter encouraging the Jewish believers scattered throughout the Gentile nations to be “set apart,” from the Gentiles, meaning not to conform to the immoral behaviors of the Gentiles but to live differently from them (much like Paul writes in Romans 12:1-3). So that when the unbelievers see them, they would ask what is different about them...why do they have such hope in this life (1 Peter 3:15). When asked, the believers could explain about their hope because of the resurrection of Jesus and their hope (confidence, assurance) of his return (1 Peter 1:3-13).

However, if the Jewish believers lived a life that was no different from (not holy, set apart) the Gentile unbelievers, then they would not impact the lives of others.

Peter’s use of the word *holy* and the writer of Hebrews use of the word *holy* are using the word *holy* differently.

The writer of Hebrews used the word **holy** to describe forgiveness and cleansing from sins through the blood of Jesus.

Peter used the word **holy** to describe living a life set apart (different) than the unbelievers so that the believers could influence and impact the lives of unbelievers, hopefully leading them to faith in Jesus.

**We are looking at God’s solution to humanity’s sin and death problem.**

Sin and death entered the human race through Adam, we have focused on the sin issue. Not let’s focus on the death issue.

**Solution #5: God made us alive with Christ**

**1 Corinthians 15:21-23**

*For since death came through a man, **the resurrection of the dead** comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ all will be made alive**. But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits [Jesus was the first to physically rise from the dead and never died again – Revelation 1:5; Colossians 1:18]; then, when he comes [at his second coming], **those who belong to him** [those who have placed their faith in him, will rise from the dead and never die again].*

Death came to the human race through Adam. The resurrection of the dead comes through Jesus.

Jesus was the **first** to physically rise from the dead and never died again (Revelation 1:5; Colossians 1:18), but he was not the **final** one to die and rise again from the dead and to never die again. Those who have placed their faith in Jesus will be resurrected from the dead to live eternally with God. With this resurrection, we will receive new bodies (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; Philippians 3:21).

Paul explains in 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 about the resurrection from the dead. He states “*the dead in Christ will rise [appear] first*” and believers who are still alive on earth when Jesus returns *will be caught up together with them*.

The dead in Christ are in heaven when this event takes place (Philippians 3:20). When Christ returns, the dead in Christ will appear with Christ and then those who are on earth will be caught up (raptured) and return with Christ and the believers to earth where we will receive a new body (Philippians 3:20-21).

Those who teach universal salvation use 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 to support their view. They interpret “in Christ all will be made alive” to mean all people will ultimately be saved. However, if we keep reading in the verse, the **all** of those who will be made alive in Christ are those who belong to him. Those who belong to him, which are those who have trusted in Jesus for salvation, will be physically made alive with Christ at the resurrection of the dead.

Those who have faith in Jesus have already been made spiritually alive with Christ (see Ephesians 2:1-9), but will also be made alive with Christ physically (new bodies) at the resurrection on the last day. Martha spoke about the resurrection on the last day in John 11:24. Daniel also wrote about the resurrection on the last day. Job did as well.

#### **John 12:24-26**

*Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”*

Martha’s understanding of the resurrection in the last day came more than likely came from her understanding of Daniel and Job.

The last days are the last days in this present age we are living in prior to the day Jesus returns. Jesus returns on the last day of the last days where he will then reign for 1000 years (Revelation 20).

#### **Daniel 12:2-3**

*Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to **everlasting life**, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

#### **Job 19:25-27 (New Revised Standard Version)**

*For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last [day] he will stand upon the earth; and **after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God**, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!*

Job, though he possessed limited knowledge, possessed confidence in a living Redeemer coming to earth, and, as a result, confidence in his own resurrection on the last day. We know this Redeemer to be Jesus!



Daniel 12:2-3 teaches there will be a resurrection of the dead, some to eternal life and others to eternal judgment. The theme of the resurrection of the dead is seen Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts (see Acts 24:15). It is also seen in Revelation 20:4-14 when those who have faith in Jesus will participate in the first resurrection and reign with him on the earth. Those who do not know Jesus (unbelievers) will ultimately be a part of the second resurrection and will cast in the consuming lake of fire (those in the books). Those who know Jesus (believers) will live eternally on the new earth (those in the book).

For more information about the resurrection on the last day, see Matthew 13:36-50; 25:46; Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; 6:40; Acts 23:6; 24:15; Revelation 20:4-14..

There will be both a physical resurrection of the dead when Christ returns.

There is also a spiritual resurrection that happens the moment we place our faith in Jesus.

Paul refers to this as being made alive in Christ.

Let's take a look at what Ephesians 2:1-9 says about being made alive in Christ.

### **Ephesians 2:1-9**

*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ [Ephesians 1:19-20] even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace [Ephesians 1:6-8], expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

In Genesis 3, sin and death entered the human race through Adam, bringing death to all. Yet God, because of his great love, his abundant mercy, and kindness, made us alive with Christ. This happened when we placed our faith in Jesus, when we believed (Ephesians 1:13).

The great love of God, the mercy of God, and the kindness is God is God's grace expressed to us in Christ Jesus. In **Ephesians 1: 6-8**, Paul writes about the grace that has come to us in Jesus.

*...to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's **grace** that he lavished on us.*

Through faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness, are made alive with Jesus, and have been seated with Jesus. In the coming eternal age, I take this to mean the new earth, God will display his grace forever!

In Colossians, we see the connection between forgiveness of sins and being made alive with Jesus.

### **Colossians 2:13-14**

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us ALL our sins**, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.*

Sin brought death. For us to be made spiritually alive and never die again, our sin problem needed to be solved. It was solved when ALL of our sins were nailed to the cross with Jesus. Through faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness of ALL our sins. Because we have received the forgiveness of all sins, we are now spiritually alive with Jesus. The resurrected Spirit of Jesus now lives with us (Galatians 1:19-20; 4:4-6).

Christ took our sins upon himself at the cross. He died our death. He then rose again. His resurrection is our resurrection. Christ now lives in us. We are spiritually alive in Christ now (and Christ is in us – Colossians 1; and will one day be physically resurrected from the dead).

### **Colossians 3:1-2**

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts [thoughts, mind, your passions, and desires] on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

The Bible provides some insight and understanding into the physical resurrection (1 Corinthians 15; Philippians 3:20-21), but we do not have total insight and understanding. But we do know that we are alive in Christ, Christ is in us (Colossians 1:27), we have been seated with Christ in heaven, and heaven is our citizenship until Christ returns. When he returns, those who are with Christ in heaven will appear and return with him to earth where there will be a physical resurrection of our dead bodies.

Sin cannot cause us to die spiritually again, or physically again after the resurrection from the dead, since all our sins have been fully and forever forgiven. We have received God's forgiveness through faith in Jesus (Acts 26:18; Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38-39). God has now made us alive with Jesus.

This is vital to understand.

Most believers are taught that we must continue to ask for God's forgiveness of our sins on a day to day basis and on a sin to sin basis. However, this has no biblical support for it. As believers, we have received God's forgiveness of all sins and have been made alive with Jesus. If all our sins are not forgiven, then we would die spiritually each time we sin. Then, upon confessing and asking for God's forgiveness, we would be made alive once again...until we sin again. We would then repeat this process every day. However, because we have been fully and permanently forgiven, we are now alive with Christ...this process is unnecessary and unbiblical.

The result of sin is death. Jesus took care of the sin problem once and for all through his death on the cross. Through faith in Jesus, we receive forgiveness and are made alive with him. We are eternally forgiven and eternally made alive with Christ.

Let's continue to look at God's solution to our sin and death problem.

## **Solution #6: God loves us so much that he gave Jesus so we could have eternal life.**

The word *life* is used about 39 times in the book of John.

### **John 3:16**

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

God loves each one of us and wants us to live eternally and not perish in the judgment of the unrighteous.

God sent his son Jesus...born of the virgin Mary.

Because Jesus was born of a virgin, he was sinless and righteous.

As the sinless, righteous one, Jesus took upon himself our sins, our unrighteousness, when he went to the cross where he died for us (Romans 5:8)

But he rose from the dead to give us eternal life (Romans 5:9, 21).

God offers us forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal life as gifts that are received through faith in Jesus.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive the forgiveness of God, we are declared righteous by God, and we possess eternal life with God.]

### **Thanks for being a part of this Bible study!**

*All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.*

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