

# Sign of An Exceptional Conception

*Promise: that sharing in our humanity God's Son accomplishes our salvation*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25  
(Fourth Sunday in Advent, 12/22/19)

*Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. – v. 20*

**Lead In** – My third year of seminary was one of internship in the northwestern Wisconsin town of Amery on the Apple River. It was a good year, but not an easy one. I remember a clergy gathering in the area that December in which I as an intern, was the only one confessing belief in the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus...

## I. It Is Not As Though Difficulty of Belief Unexpected

- Probably better stated “virginal conception”...
- Humans are not asexual creatures...
- Joseph and 1<sup>st</sup> century not better predisposed...

## II. A Sign As Deep As Sheol Or High As Heaven

- The sign refused, but still given to Ahaz...
- As predicted, one of the greater miracles...
- Not a miracle just meant to dazzle...

## III. In On The Ground Level of Birth of Salvation

- A reason 2<sup>nd</sup> Article of Confession begins...
- Human nature had been poisoned, infected...
- Need for a healthy, holy, righteous infection...

**Parting Shot** – It has been said that Jesus paid a debt that He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not repay. And that is one way of getting at the mystery. But I want to stick with the idea of an infection. Picture the saying “one bad apple spoils the whole bunch”. Indeed, if rotting fruit is not removed... Picture the reverse of this... That one totally good apple will make good the whole bunch. But it needs to be a totally good apple!...

**Is 7:10-11** Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”

**Is 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

**Is 7:16** For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Art.:** *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.*

**Expl:** *I believe that Jesus Christ – true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary – is my Lord.*

# Matthew 1:18-25 ESV

*The Birth of Jesus Christ*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**Ro 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

**Ro 5:15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.

**Ro 5:19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**1 Co 15:21-22** For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Phil 2:8** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

**Nicene Creed:** *For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.*

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