



# Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

## “A Virgin Birth?”

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**Verse for the week: Luke 1:26b-28 (NLT) God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”**

Is it really possible to have a virgin birth? Of course it is, especially in this scientific age. It’s called in vitro fertilization but that’s not the same thing as what the Bible is talking about. The virgin birth of Jesus Christ is one of the main events that set’s Christianity apart from other religions. Many people don’t believe it. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, had a hard time believing it. When the angel told her she was going to have a child she responded in *Luke 1:34 (NLT)* **“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”**<sup>35</sup> *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[b] the Son of God.* Mary responded in verse 38 **“I am the Lord’s servant, may your word to me be fulfilled.”** She simply believed but I’m sure it didn’t take to much faith for her especially when she began to feel Jesus kick her inside her womb. For others it takes a little more faith to believe especially since every year at Christmas time we hear that this wasn’t the first virgin birth recorded. Say what? Yep it’s true, there are other stories of miraculous conceptions but of the few that are shared they are in Greek **mythology** and one in Chinese **mythology**. The key word is **mythology** (noun - a collection of myths)! These individuals were fictitious and didn’t exist unlike Jesus Christ who we know did historically exist. (I share about this in a previous Thursday Thought.) Some say that the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is inspired by Greek mythology but the first prophesy about a messiah was hundreds of years before the Greek civilization. I could go on and on but there isn’t time.

So why was the virgin birth important. It all goes back to Adam and Eve in Genesis chapter 3. They sinned but it wasn’t until Adam ate the forbidden fruit that their eyes were open. Since then original sin has been passed down from the father. (Romans 5:12) Because Mary had not been with any man, thus a virgin, Jesus was able to be born sinless. I know it gets very deep and theological but it’s important. The reason Jesus had to be sinless was because of what His future held. In the Old Testament in order to receive forgiveness of sin you had to sacrifice an unflawed lamb. Jesus, who was fully God and fully man, became the unflawed lamb who would take away the sins of the world.(John 1:29) The reason we give gifts at Christmas is because God gave the greatest gift that could ever be given, He gave us an opportunity to have a restored relationship with God. (John 3:16) In order to have this restored relationship with God it requires not only us having faith but also acting. We have to confess! We must confess our sins (I John 1:9) and confess that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9)! **Have you done that? Today would be a great day to do it!** This short Thursday Thought doesn’t begin to even to dig into the depth of this arguments. I passionately believe that Jesus is the greatest gift that was ever given and extremely thankful and I’m thankful for Mary’s willingness to be used.