

## Born of a Virgin

Matthew said Jesus would be called *Immanuel* (1:22) - *God with us*. His statement is directly connected to the virgin conception and birth of Christ. What does the Bible say about all that?

- It is clearly predicted in Isaiah 7:14.
- Matthew explains it in his genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. Notice the pattern (literally translated):

Abraham fathered Isaac . . . .  
Judah fathered Perez and Zerah out of Tamar . . . .  
Salmon fathered Boaz out of Rachab . . . .  
Boaz fathered Obed out of Ruth . . . .  
David fathered Solomon out of the wife of Uriah . . . .

***Now 1:16:*** Jacob fathered Joseph, the husband of Mary; out of her was fathered Jesus, the one being called the Christ.

- Mary was involved in Jesus conception, but not Joseph. He knew he had not fathered this child (Matt 1:19). God tells Joseph (and us) who had fathered the baby Jesus – the Holy Spirit (1:18, 20). Joseph and Mary were engaged, but Mary was a virgin. Joseph puzzles over what to do, and Mary in Luke 1:34 wonders, *How will this happen, since I am a virgin?* The Bible throughout stands behind the virgin birth of Jesus!

**Why a miraculous conception? Why a virgin birth?** Abraham and Sarah conceived baby Isaac miraculously; Hannah conceived Samuel in her old age; even Mary's cousin Elizabeth conceived John as an old woman. Ah, but Jesus' birth topped them all – *the Holy Spirit came upon Mary, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her*. Immanuel was fathered in her – God with us in human form, the Word made flesh. You see, only God can save people from their sins, yet only people *should* pay for them, so God the Son became a baby. The all-powerful Creator became part of his creation. The eternal God stepped into time. *To save his people from their sins.*

***Tell your children about the real Mary***—a young Jewish girl with a lot to lose who trusted God's promises and submitted to His ways. A simply worded Bible such as the *New Living Translation* will help you make this awesome story *live* for your kids! Speaking of living, The Visual Bible's *Gospel of Matthew* DVDs and the film *The Nativity* will bring the Christmas story to life for your family. May this be your best Christmas ever!

**PROMISE FULFILLED**  
***Promise series***

## The Real Mary

*What if God, in fulfilling His promises, asks you to be part of the solution? And what if that means stretching you and taking you out of your comfort zone? Would you be willing to do that? Pastor Dan*

1. Have you ever felt like God put you in an impossible situation? You were doing your best to follow Him, but it was really hard! Share your story with the group.
2. Read Luke 1:26-38. What impossible situation did the Lord present to Mary? What question did she ask? How did she respond?
3. What did being the one and only “pregnant virgin” mean for Mary in first-century Palestine? Consider these verses.
  - Deuteronomy 22:20-21—
  - Luke 7:36-39—
  - John 8:1-5—
  - Matthew 1:18-20—
4. With the odds stacked against her, why do think Mary chose to submit to God’s ways?

*“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”*  
Luke 1:38
5. What’s happening in your life right now that seems like an impossible situation? How do you think God might work it out?
6. How do think He could use you as part of the solution?

*For no word from God will ever fail.* Luke 1:37