

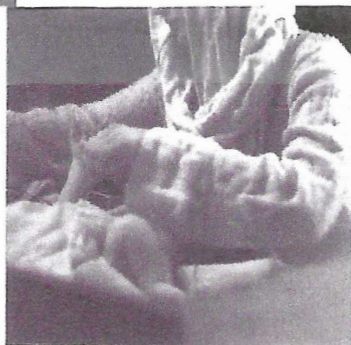
<sup>30</sup> Then the angel told her: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

<sup>31</sup> Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

Many who challenge the virgin birth of Christ believe Jesus was an illegitimate child. They don't believe in the miraculous power of God. They forget that, though Gabriel clearly connected Jesus to "his father David," he also called Jesus "the Son of the Most High." Jesus was fully human, yet this connection to his earthly ancestor David also points to His

### Question 3

**What do these verses teach us about Jesus' humanity?**



divinity. God had made a covenant with King David, one in which God promised David that his descendant would rule eternally.

Gabriel's announcement gave insight into who Jesus would be, and it confirmed some former prophecies.



1. **He will be called the Son of the Most High.** Note Gabriel referred to Jesus as the Son of God before referencing his connection to David. First and foremost, Jesus is the Son of God before He is the Son of David.
2. **The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.** This promise fulfills one of the major Old Testament covenants, the Davidic Covenant. Jesus would suffer and die, but He would rise victorious and reign on His throne—a throne given to Him by His Father.
3. **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.** Jesus' victory is an eternal victory. Daniel had a vision of "one like a son of man" who "was given dominion, and glory, and a kingdom; so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14).
4. **His kingdom will have no end.** A promise of an eternal kingdom alludes back to an earlier prophecy about the coming Messiah: "For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

### Question 4

**What do these verses teach us about Jesus' divinity?**

## THE POINT

### Luke 1:34-35

<sup>34</sup> Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" <sup>35</sup> The angel replied to her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

All that Mary heard was amazing; for many people it might be too incredible to believe, but not for Mary. She did ask a question about it, but it was not a question of doubt. Six months earlier, Zechariah asked a question that, on the surface, seemed the same: "How can I know this?" (Luke 1:18), but Mary asked, "How can this be?" Mary did not question what Gabriel was saying, but she was curious to know how God was going to carry out this miracle through her.

Consider also that Gabriel did not rebuke Mary for her question, as he did when Zechariah had questioned earlier (v. 20). Instead, Gabriel explained what God would do. Clearly, the conception would be the result of divine activity, the work of God's Spirit. Divine activity meant the child would be divine. As a result, "the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

People in our society today offer a wide range of reactions to Jesus. Some like Jesus, while some do not; but all can agree no one else has ever been like Him. Jesus' greatness eclipses that of any other man or empire.

The truths that Jesus is God and He was born of a virgin should mean everything to us as

believers. Jesus had to become one of us—human—to die in our place, but He couldn't offer the perfect sacrifice if He was like every other human with a sin nature. The virgin birth means Jesus had no human father—God is His Father—therefore, Jesus was born without a sin nature. Jesus is fully man and He is fully God. God is with us!

Just as Mary trusted God with the truth she heard, so must we. It takes faith. Each of us must accept the truth that Jesus is God's Son who came to save us from sin and death. Only Jesus can do that. Allow Jesus to enter your heart and life. He will bring you forgiveness, hope, healing, and transformation.

*Question 5:*

***How would you explain the virgin birth to someone who finds it hard to believe?***



## JESUS THE GOD-MAN

*In the space below, list aspects of Jesus' humanity on one side, and aspects of His deity on the other. Then describe how each has impacted you.*

His Humanity:

His Deity:

How these aspects of Jesus have impacted me:

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*"If Jesus is the Son of God, his teachings are more than just good ideas from a wise teacher; they are divine insights on which I can confidently build my life."*

LEE STROBEL

## LIVE IT OUT

In the moments when life feels overwhelming, anxious, or confusing, remember you have a great Savior—Jesus, the Son of the Most High God. How will you live out that truth? Choose one of the following applications:

- **Trust.** God can work a miracle and change your life, so trust Him. If you want to know how to become a follower of Christ, talk with your group leader. You can also read the inside front cover of this book.
- **Pray.** Ask the Lord to increase your faith. Trust Him with what you know from His Word.
- **Defend.** If you have a friend who sees Jesus simply as a good man or a good teacher, share with him or her the reality of the virgin birth of Christ. Pray that eyes would be opened to the impact that trust can have on one's life as you defend the truth.

Making decisions can be challenging, especially on the really important questions of life. Certainly nowhere are the rewards and consequences more clear than in how we answer who Jesus is. So choose wisely.

MAY 3

## **The Power of Personal Experience**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4 (NIV)

SOMEONE SAID, "THE courage it takes to share your story might be the very thing someone else needs to open their heart to hope." Reflect on your life, and ask Jesus to help you find ways to inspire others and give them hope by sharing a personal experience.

*Dear Lord, guide me to bless others with my story.*

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