

20230916 JESUS WAS BORN OF A VIRGIN

Series: "Heroes of the Faith"

Hebrews 12:1-3; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-37

Pastor Rusty Russell

New Day Christian Church, Southwest Florida

September 16-17, 2023

INTRODUCTION:

A. REVIEW

We've studied eleven heroes from biblical history, great people of faith. Each one of them has inspired us to keep going, to keep the faith. But we haven't yet considered the greatest hero of all. Hebrews 11 ends with these words:

[Heb 11:39-40 NIV] 39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, 40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

B. TRANSITION FROM DANIEL TO TODAY'S HERO

Daniel prophesied of a coming savior, God's rock that would destroy all kingdoms. How would that happen through God's chosen people if they were no longer a nation?

The next kings of Persia, perhaps because of Daniel's influence, against all odds, began to allow the Jews to return to their homeland. Ezra was allowed to return and rebuild the temple. Nehemiah was allowed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

For the next four hundred years after Ezra and Nehemiah, God was silent. But then came the angel Gabriel to Mary with the news that she would bear the Holy One, the Son of God. The world was about to be introduced to the greatest hero of all.

C. JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE HERO

The Hebrew writer begins the next chapter with these inspiring words:

[Heb 12:1-3 NIV] 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

All these other heroes pointed to Jesus. He is our inspiration, the ultimate hero.

FOUR SUMMARY STATEMENTS OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

- Born of a virgin
- Lived a perfect life
- Died on a cross for the sins of all mankind
- Rose from the dead

INTRO TO TODAY'S TOPIC: JESUS BORN OF A VIRGIN

Talk show Larry King on his fantasy interview of Jesus Christ:

"I would ask him if he was indeed virgin-born.

The answer to that question would define history for me."

I. SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1: JESUS IS BORN OF A VIRGIN

A. Mary becomes pregnant.

[Mat 1:18-25 NIV] 18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

B. Joseph plans to divorce her quietly.

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

C. Joseph is visited by an angel.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

D. Joseph obeys the angel.

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

II. APOLOGETICS: DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE VIRGIN BIRTH?

To reject the virgin birth, you must reject the testimony of credible witnesses:

- A. Mary
- B. Matthew and Luke
- C. Joseph
- D. The half brothers of Jesus
- E. The greatest man who ever lived

III. APPLICATION:

If Jesus was virgin-born, if he is “Immanuel – God with us,” is there any problem in your life he can’t solve? Is there any mountain he can’t help you climb? Consider again these inspiring words from Hebrews 12:

[Heb 12:1-3 NIV] 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he

endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Life is a grueling marathon. Run with perseverance. Fix your eyes on Jesus! Then you won't grow weary and lose heart.

CONCLUSION

If the focus of your eyes, of your life, has been anything other than Jesus, you will soon discover your life is meaningless because you've been running wrong race. Fix your eyes on him today.