

SOME QUESTIONS FOR INTERJECTORS

The Hebrew attitude to childbirth was, and is, that each new personality coming into being is a new 'miracle' of creation. This attitude is clearly expressed in both the Old and New Testaments. The spirit of God is thought of as operating directly in the births of all. The idea of 'virgin birth', on the other hand, is quite common amongst the Gentiles. To the Jews this 'special' kind of birth was totally unnecessary. The statement by Matthew – "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit" – refers to Jesus himself and not to his manner of conception.

From the ideas they contain can you tell which of the following statements have been taken from the New Testament? And which from the Old? Are there any that do not refer to childbirth? With what Bible personality do you connect the statements? Which statements refer to Jesus' birth? Do you interpret the ones that do not apply to Jesus as referring to persons who were virgin-born?

1. Now the word of the Lord came unto ... saying: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you ... to the nations.
2. ... and the Lord gave her conception and she bore a son.
3. And the Lord visited (her) and she conceived ... and the boy ... grew in the presence of the Lord.
4. ... and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.
5. The Spirit of God hath made me and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
6. And behold thou shalt conceive in the womb and bring forth a son.
7. And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name ...
8. Everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
9. Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another ...
10. And call no man your father on the earth; for one is your Father even he who is in heaven.
11. They said to him; We were not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

12. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
13. ... she conceived and bore (a son) saying, I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.
14. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin, for his seed remaineth in him and he cannot sin for he is born of God.
15. We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not ...
16. Blessed art thou, O Lord, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory and the majesty ...
17. Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them!
18. And he said to them, When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come ...

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