

QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ANSWERED!

(a) WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

1. If Jesus was not a normal man, how was he different from you?
2. Do you think that if Jesus was born of a virgin he had a better chance than you? And that you do not need to aspire to be of the same character as he was?
3. In which way would a virgin birth have helped Jesus?
4. Do you think the Father expects his other sons to be of the same character?
5. If the mystery of virgin birth were taken from church doctrine, what would be the essence of christianity?

(b) DO YOU PROVE ALL THINGS?

1. What are the proof texts used in the official statement of your church to show that Jesus was born of a virgin?
2. Do these texts, when read in context, suggest alternate meanings?

(c) WHAT DID ISAIAH SAY?

1. Does Isaiah 7 v.14 form part of the official statement referred to in (b) 1?
2. Have you read the whole of Isaiah chapter 7 recently?

(d) WHAT'S IN A NAME?

1. Was Immanuel the child born as a sign to the King that the invading armies would be defeated?
2. What does the name Abijah mean?
3. What was Mary instructed to call her child?
4. Was Jesus ever called Immanuel?
5. Does the name Immanuel (God with us) signify that God is working with us (on our side), or that God himself has taken the form of a human?
6. Which idea does Matthew convey in chapter 1 verse 23?

(e) DID MATTHEW MISQUOTE?

1. Do Matthew's allusions to the Old Testament to prove Jesus was the Messiah, appear to refer to the coming Messiah when read in context?
2. Does Matthew quote the Old Testament without regard to context? Or does he show the experiences of Jesus as a fulfilment or re-enactment of Israel's history?
3. How do you reconcile Hosea chapter 11 verses 1 & 2 with Matthew chapter 2 v. 15?

(f) WHOSE SON IS HE?

1. If Jesus had no earthly father would it not be essential, in the light of Romans chapter 1 verse 3, to prove that Mary was born of the tribe of Judah?
2. What proof does your church offer for this?
3. Whose is the genealogy given by Luke in chapter 3?
4. Why does Matthew show that Jesus was not the son of Joseph? (N.B. Jeconiah).

(g) ARE THERE DEGREES OF HOLINESS?

1. Did Elizabeth possess the Holy Spirit when she prophesied?
2. When did the Holy Spirit come on Mary?
3. What did the Law of Moses say about the first-born male child?
4. When was Jesus called holy?
5. Does the term 'overshadow' convey the idea of protection? Or do you consider it has some other less-definite meaning?

(h) WHEN WAS JESUS BEGOTTEN OF GOD?

1. What significance does the resurrection hold in the writings of the Apostles? (particularly Acts).
2. Since Jesus is called "the last Adam" (1 Cor. 15) could you not reasonably substitute the teaching by the Apostles that Jesus was the "first begotten from the dead" for the usual church idea that Jesus was the "first-born son of God by virgin birth"?
3. When Psalm 2 verse 7 is quoted by the Apostles, does this refer to the physical birth of Jesus, or to his resurrection?