

A Virgin Will Conceive By the Holy Spirit

December 24, 2017 – Luke 1:31-35

“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the Name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end. How will this be, Mary asked the angel, since I am a virgin? The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.”

In the last book of the Bible – Revelation – The Apostle John is exiled on the Island of Patmos. It is there that the Lord reveals to the Apostle John many incredible sights emphasizing Christ’s Victory over sin, death and the devil.

In the 1st Chapter we hear The Apostle John report: **“When I saw Him (Someone Like a Son of Man), I fell at His feet as though dead. Then He placed His right hand on me and said: Do not be afraid, I AM the First and the Last.”** (Rev. 1:17)

The Apostle John was so overwhelmed that he fell as though dead.

In the 2nd chapter of Ezekiel, Ezekiel saw: **“A figure like that of a man, from what appeared to be His waist up He looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down He looked like fir; and brilliant light surrounded Him. ... This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell face down, and I heard the voice of one speaking.”** (Ez. 1:25-28)

The Prophet Ezekiel was so overwhelmed that he fell face down in the presence of the Lord.

In the 8th Chapter of Daniel, the Lord sent the Angel Gabriel to Daniel 530 years before Christ! We are told:

“As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell Prostrate. Son of man Gabriel said to me, understand that the vision concerns the time of the end. (Dan. 8:17)

Daniel was overwhelmed by what he saw.

In **Luke 1:26-29** we are told that the Angel Gabriel went to a woman named Mary:

“God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin [Παρθενον] pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The Virgin’s name was Mary. 28 – The Angel said to her, Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Mary was greatly troubled....”

It was during this visit of the Angel Gabriel that he announced to The Virgin Mary:

Vs. 31 – You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the Name Jesus.

Vs. 32 – He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David,

Vs. 33 – and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His Kingdom will never end.

After this announcement the Virgin Mary asked a straight forward / innocent question:

Vs. 34 – How will this be, Mary asked the angel, since I am a virgin? [επει ανδρα ου γινωσκω]

And the Angel Gabriel answered:

Vs. 35 – The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.

[Πνευμα αγιον επελευσεται επι σε και δυναμις υψιστου επισκιασει σοι διο και το γεννωμενον αγιον κληθησεται υιοσ θεου.] Επερχομαι = επελευσεται

That is it!!! That is the Words of God, Used to explain and describe how a Young Virgin woman will conceive and give birth to a Son. God the Holy Spirit, Who is often in the background, working through the Gospel in the Word and Sacrament, will come upon The Virgin Mary, and He will overshadow her and she is pregnant!!!

To this answer of the Angel Gabriel Mary simply says:

Vs. 38 – I am the Lord’s Servant (δουλοσ). May it be to me as you have said.”(δουλοσ) = Slave

The Virgin Mary submitted to the Word of God which the Angel Gabriel delivered!!! The child that was conceived in her was - Fully Human, Just as He is Fully God. The infant lowly was Conceived by the Holy Spirit, yet the Seed of a Woman.

God has come to you. Not perhaps in the same way as to the Apostle John or Ezekiel or Daniel or as Mary, through the Angel Gabriel. But God has come to you with the same Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

In the simple waters of Baptism, through Bible history and devotions at home, and in Sunday School and through the Sermons that you have heard.

When the Holy Spirit came upon you through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament, did you fall down as though dead?
Were you terrified? NO!

Instead the Old Adam, the Sinful Nature was drown, the New Man brought to life, Faith in Jesus was Created in our hearts, and we are now children of God instead of children of the devil.

When Mary Carried Jesus in her arms she was carrying God. When Mary kissed the face of Jesus, she was kissing the face of God.

It is that God Who humbled Himself and became flesh and blood – Fully Human – For your sake and for mine, and for the sake of all mankind of all time.

It was Jesus Who went to the Cross of Calvary and died the death that we deserve so that we have heaven where there is no more sin or death or sorrow or pain or crying.

That is Your God and Savior, His Name is Jesus and He has saved His people from their Sin.

It is His birth that we celebrate. It is because of Jesus that we have Christmas. AMEN