



Pastor Scott Archer 11.29.2015*
Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
www.ccclamesa.com

The Scandal and Significance of the Virgin Birth
Luke 1:26-38
Advent Series: The Promise of Christmas Future

Central Passage

Luke 1:34–37 (ESV) — 34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God... 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." (See also, Isaiah 7:14)

Central Thought: That Christ was born of a virgin, gives us confidence for today and hope for tomorrow, as we continue to place our trust in God's sovereign plan and promises.

God's Ways...

- ❖ Are scandalous, as they often get worked out in unexpected ways through unqualified people.

Luke 1:26–27 (ESV) — 26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (ESV) — 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

- ❖ Are significant, as they are completely and sovereignly fulfilled by God in Jesus, from his virgin birth to his death, his resurrection and his promised return.

Luke 1:30–33 (ESV) — 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

1 Timothy 3:14–16 (NLT) — 14 I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon, 15 so that if I am delayed, you will know how people must conduct themselves in the household of God. This is the church of the living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. 16 Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed in throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.

Homework

- ❖ Reflect on the scandal and significance Jesus' birth during this Advent season by reading the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke, or by picking up an Advent Devotional on the back table.
- ❖ You can follow 24-7 Prayer's Advent video series by searching for it on Youtube.