

Prophecy and Birth Narrative: The Genesis Origins

1A General Introduction:

- 1B** This has been an ongoing series at Christmas time for several years.
- 2B** The theme of the study is to reach into the Old Testament prophecies concerning the birth of Christ, and match them with the New Testament nativity narratives.
- 3B** The result has been a confirmation of the veracity of Scripture, and an increase in confidence of the applicability of God's Word.

2A Introduction to the Genesis prophecy.

- 1B** In this section we will study what is known as the proto-gospel, the first Gospel of Scripture.
- 2B** The background is God's judgments at the fall of man.
- 3B** God forbade the two in the garden to eat of the one tree: Genesis 2:16-17 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- 4B** The woman had been deceived by the serpent, and she ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- 5B** The man followed the woman in this sin.
- 6B** The immediate effect was awareness of their nakedness, Genesis 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
 - 1C** This was a result of what had happened to them physically and spiritually.
 - 2C** Physically they both became mortal in the very cell structure of their bodies. They were aware of death.
 - 3C** Spiritually, they both became separated from the fellowship of God.
- 7B** Whereas before they were naked and not ashamed (Genesis 2:25), now there is an element of shame. They want to cover up.
- 8B** Since the man was the corporate head of the human race, the effects of the fall in physical and spiritual death would apply to all who followed.
- 9B** The application of death comes through the seed of the man.
 - 1C** 1 Corinthians 15:22 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.
 - 2C** Romans 5:12 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—
 - 3C** 1 Peter 1:23 23 having been born again, not of corruptible (*phthartes*) seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,
 - 1D** The normal course of birth is corruptible seed. *phthartes* means subject to decay, perishable.

2D So the principle of death comes through the seed of the man in the reproduction process.

10B The immortal body comes through the resurrection:

1C 2 Corinthians 5:1-5 1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2C 1 Corinthians 15:51-56 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.

3A The Genesis prophecy:

1B Genesis 3:15 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

2B A permanent hostility, *‘eybhah* comes into existence between the serpent and the woman, and especially between the offspring of the serpent and the offspring of the woman.

3B But God says something completely out of the ordinary here. He says that the woman’s seed will crush the seed of the serpent.

1C Normally, seed is attributed to the man, in the sperm that comes from his body.

2C Genesis 22:18 illustrates this, In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

4B But why doesn’t God declare this One who will crush the offspring of the serpent as the seed of Adam?

5B The indication is that it is the woman’s seed alone who will accomplish this victory.

6B This points to a virgin birth, a pregnancy brought about without the seed of the man.

7B Right after all the pronouncements of cursings, Adam initiates a name change for his woman. To that point she had been *ishah*, or “female.”

- 8B Genesis 3:20 20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.
- 1C He calls her *chayyah*, and gives the reason: she is the mother of all *chay* – all living things.
- 2C It's a fascinating moment. Already he knew of their reproductive potential because they had been commanded to be fruitful and multiply: Genesis 1:28 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- 3C So this is not necessarily about producing the human race.
- 4C They have just experienced death for the first time, just become mortal.
- 5C His reference to the *chay* has to be about something more than reproduction. He is deducing from Genesis 3:15 the victory over the serpent's seed, which is ultimately the victory over death.
- 9B The woman was taught even more than this. Listen to her response in Genesis 4:1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man, the Lord."
- 1C Notice the different translation? The original has *Yahweh* in apposition to *ish*.
- 2C This means that Eve knows one of her offspring may be the Lord.
- 3C She is mistaken in the application, but she understood the implication.
- 4C The Seed is her Seed, and very pointedly NOT Adam's seed.
- 10B Christ is said to be the Seed of Abraham and the Seed of David as well.
- 1C Galatians 3:16-19 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ. 17 And this I say, that the law, which was four hundred and thirty years later, cannot annul the covenant that was confirmed before by God in Christ, that it should make the promise of no effect. 18 For if the inheritance is of the law, it is no longer of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by promise. 19 What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.
- 2C Romans 1:1-4 1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.
- 4A Genesis into twisted paganism: the virgin cult in ancient history and mythology.

- 1B Now Eve and Adam passed on their information to succeeding generations, going all the way down to the flood.
- 2B At the flood, eight souls survived, and the truths of the Genesis came through them.
- 3B As the flood generation died off, pagan religion and their writings began to rise.
- 4B And just as the flood narrative survives in every people group even today, so also the cult of the virgin was a pervasive idea.
- 5B Pagan mythology and religion contains the germs of truth from the Genesis narrative, but all are twisted by time, and especially by sin.
- 6B Have you heard of Ishtar? Isis? Astraea? Artemis? Athena? Cybele? The Vestal Virgins? All are from the same root of truth.
- 7B All of the following comes with the help of Wikipedia and the Oxford Classical Dictionary.
- 1C Let's start with the Hittite and Phrygian Cybele, the deification of the earth mother, and the goddess of fertility. She is not a virgin goddess, but she is the mother of all living things, even animals and gods. A focal point of her cult was immortality. Both the Greeks and the Romans adopted her worship.
- 2C Next is Ishtar, a Babylonian goddess of fertility, associated with the planet Venus. Legends have her going through seven gates to enter Hades itself, while all reproductive activity ceases on the earth above.
- 3C Isis, the Egyptian goddess was the queen. Her name in Egyptian means "she of the throne." She was the "mistress of the house of life." According to legend, she was impregnated by Osiris, the god of the afterlife and gives birth to Horus, who redeems his own father. She also was adopted by the Greeks, and in some papyri she is the "mistress of heaven."
- 1D From Burnham's Celestial Handbook, vol.3, regarding Spica, the brightest star in the constellation Virgo: "In Egypt she was the goddess Isis, the Divine Wife and Mother, and her star was honored as the Lute Bearer. Prof. Lockyer thought that at least one of the temples at Akhenaton's royal city, now known as Tell el Amarna, was oriented to the setting of Spica."
- 2D Tel Amarna was the great library of Egypt. Moses had access to this library while he was a prince of Egypt.
- 4C Astraea, "star-virgin," was the daughter of Zeus and Themis, the personification of justice. She was the last of immortals to live with humans, and ascended to heaven to become the constellation Virgo.
- 5C Artemis was the daughter of Zeus and Leto, and the twin sister of Apollo. She was the goddess of virginity and fertility, as well as of the hunt.
- 8B In every case, this is a perversion of the original prophecy and the truth.

- 9B It is often asserted that the virgin story in the nativity narrative is just a retelling of the pagan myths. The reverse is true: the pagan myths are a perversion of the Genesis original.
- 10B Ironically, a fair portion of the Mariolatry of Roman Catholicism is borrowed from the pagan myths, obscuring several great truths.
- 11B When Mary becomes a god, the worship becomes pagan.
- 5A A quick summary:
- 1B In Adam's seed is the mortal nature of man. Through him is passed death to every new living human being.
- 2B In the seed of the woman is life. But this immortality cannot possibly come through normal reproductive activity.
- 3B Therefore, a virgin birth is demanded.
- 4B Although this truth was brought down through oral tradition, it became perverted and occluded by time and sin.
- 6A A note on meiosis and polar body.
- 1B Christian biologists and exegetes have speculated that the process of meiosis in the human female, which produces the complete ovum ready for fertilization, is the process by which the physical elements of sin and death are shed.
- 2B In the process, 23 chromosomes are shed, but no firm evidence has ever been set forth to connect this with immortality.
- 3B On the biblical side, we are certain that sin and death come to the human race through the seed of the man, through his sperm cell.
- 4B Therefore, although this is a decent speculation and it seems to make sense, it is not a certainty that know biological process is where it happens.