

Why Believe in Christ's Virgin Birth?

By Dr. Andy Woods





Preview

- To fulfill OT prophecy
- To emphasize Christ's humanity and deity
- To emphasize Christ's eternality
- To maintain Christ's sinlessness
- To protect the bodily atonement
- To circumvent the curse of Jeconiah
- To vindicate the NT



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To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

■ Almah

- ◆ Bethulah? (Joel 1:8)
- ◆ OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)
- ◆ LXX
- ◆ Matt 1:23



To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

■ Ahaz' Day?

- ◆ From the singular to the plural “you”
- ◆ David (Isa 7:13)
- ◆ Immanuel? (Isa 7:14)
- ◆ Extended context (Isa 9:6; 11:1-5)
- ◆ Sign (Isa 7:14)



Isaiah 7 and 8 Differences



- Isa 7
 - Immanuel
 - Blessing
 - Born to a virgin
 - Age 12
 - Assyrian judgment upon Judah
- Isa 8
 - Maher-shalal-hash-baz
 - Judgment
 - Born to Isaiah's wife
 - Age 1-2
 - Assyrian judgment upon Syria and Israel

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To Emphasize Christ's Humanity and Deity

- Humanity-Luke 2:52
- Deity-John 1:1
- Hypostatic Union
- Virgin birth emphasizes the unique God/Man
 - ◆ Born of a woman: humanity
 - ◆ Born supernaturally: deity



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To Emphasize Christ's Eternality

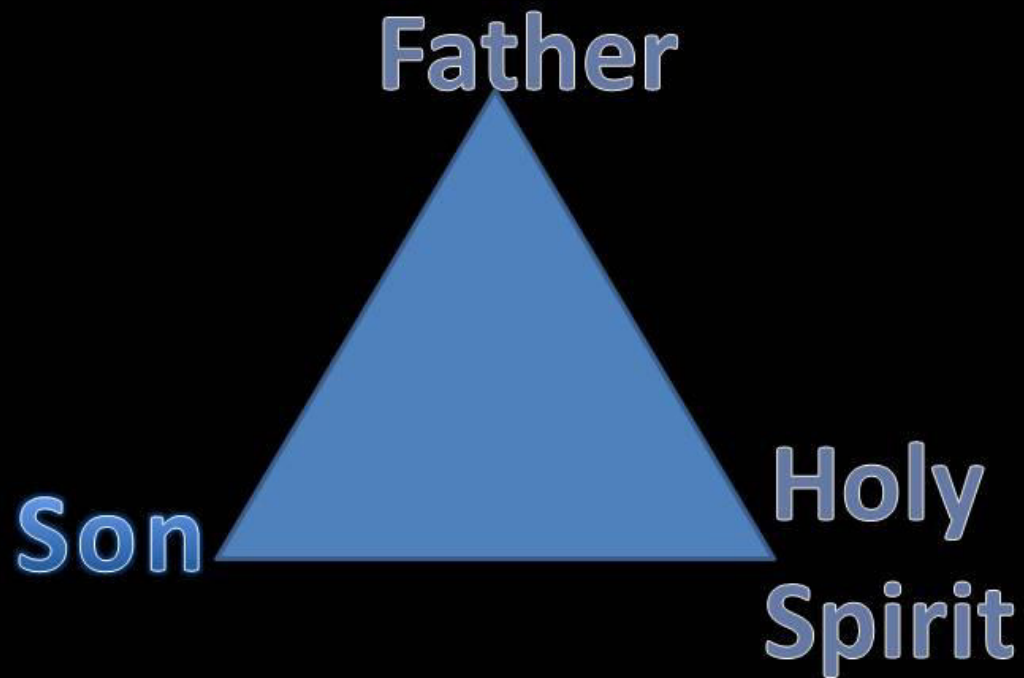
- Christ's preexistence (John 8:58)

- Nicene Creed

- Virgin birth = no beginning point



Trinity



I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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To Maintain Christ's Sinlessness

- Christ's perfection (John 8:46)
- Humanity's sin nature (Ps 51:5) passed down through the man (Rom 5:12)
- Virgin birth = Christ had no biological father



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To Protect the Bodily Atonement



- Eternal God must pay the eternal penalty for man's sin (Rom 6:23)
- A perfect substitute must pay the penalty for man's sin (Exod 12:5; 1 Pet 1:19)

Why the Virgin Birth?

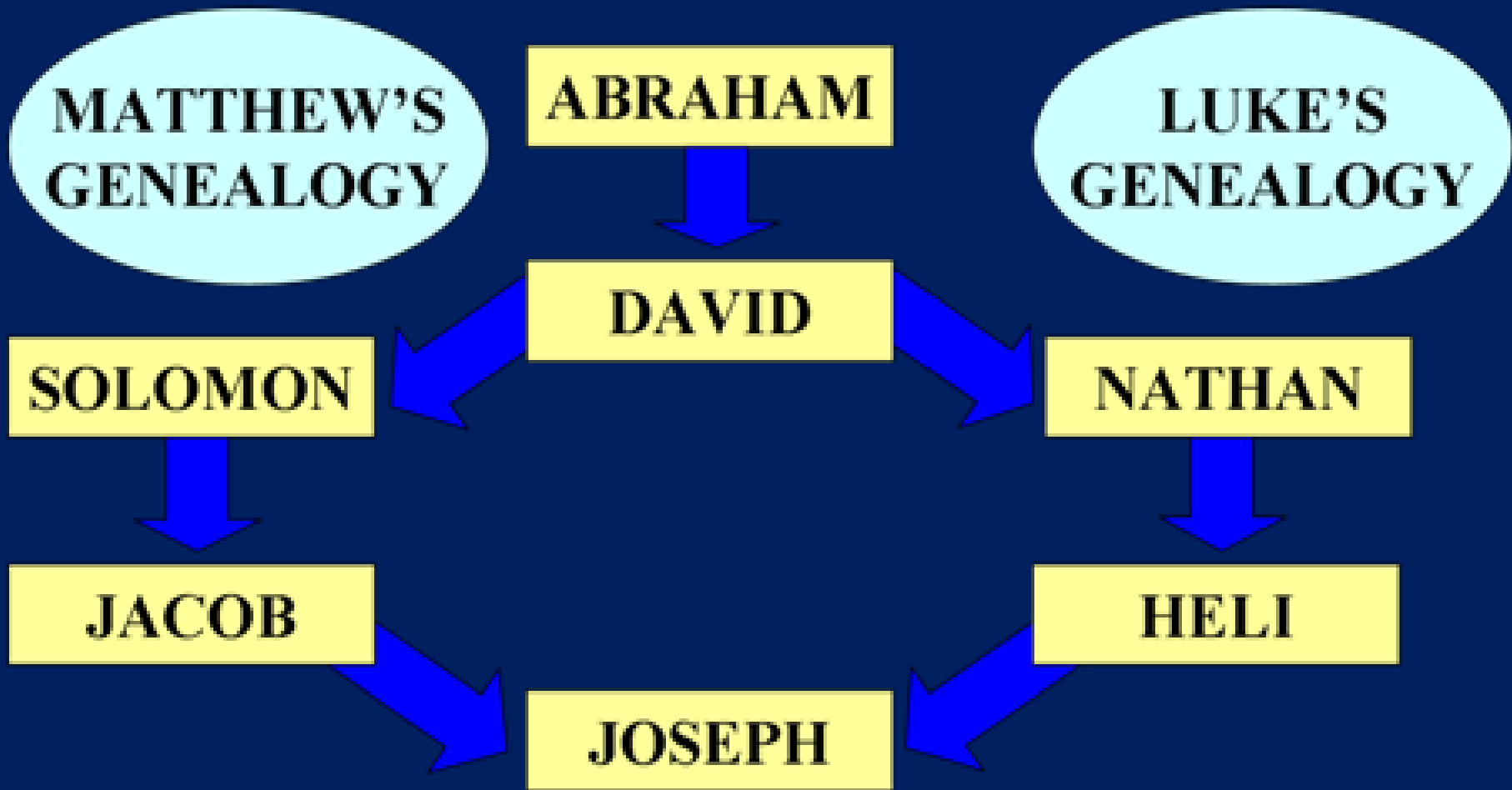


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To Circumvent Jeconiah's Curse

- Jer 22:30
- Matt 1:12
- Virgin birth = Christ not an actual descendant of Jeconiah
- Luke 3:31





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To Vindicate the NT

- Matt 1:18-25
- Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-19
- John 8:41
- Gal 4:4



Conclusion

Review

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