

"Jesus Miracle Beginning -
Miracle Salvation"

1. Introduction

- a. Joseph & Mary engaged, beginning of marriage contract
- b. Mary is found pregnant - about 4 months
- c. Joseph thinks to end marriage contract through divorce
 - Joseph a good man, wanted to divorce quietly
 - Joseph did not want to make a public scandal & spectacle
- d. But God sent an angel to intervene in a dream
- e. Joseph took Mary as his wife (public)
 - everyone knew they were married
 - but Joseph did not consummate (begin intimacy) marriage until after Jesus' birth

2. Jesus miracle conception

- a. Natural reproduction
 - male sperm + female egg = new young of species
 - true both for animals & plants
- b. Oogenesis: ability of some species to birth young in doubling egg chromosomes
 - offspring always female
 - in every species, one set of chromosomes called "sex chromosome"
 - * determines gender of offspring
 - example of worker bees
 - * always female
 - * produced through oogenesis
- c. But Jesus conception a miracle
 - apparent through oogenesis
 - no human male sperm
 - Jesus as embryo began where Holy Spirit changed sex chromosome to male
 - impregnation through biological work of Holy Spirit
- d. Gift of life comes from God

3. Miracle prophecy to Joseph
- a. Joseph has private thoughts
 - he wants to make decision
 - Mary pregnant, but not his kid
 - but he does not want to put Mary up to public ridicule
 - b. Joseph has not told anyone yet about his thoughts
 - but God could see/hear his thoughts
 - c. But God visits Joseph in a dream
 - God explains Mary's pregnancy
 - Mary is pregnant by Holy Spirit
 - "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife..."
 - Call the boy with name of Jesus
 - * other Old Testament examples of unusual births - Samson (Judges 13:2-14)
 - * recent Zacharias & Elizabeth (Lk 1:5-25; 57-79)

4. Joseph's immediate obedience
- a. Joseph did not wait
 - b. Joseph did not question
 - c. Joseph took Mary as his wife
 - he had full knowledge of Mary's situation
 - d. God Himself will give a sign (miracle)
 - * Is 7:14-16 God's sign... virgin shall conceive
 - * King Ahaz king of Judah (Is 7:1, 2 Kings 16:1-3) evil king
 - * God instructs Isaiah to meet disbelieving king
 - * God gives prophecy in uncertain times
 - Mt 1:23 prophecy fulfilled in uncertain times under Roman occupation
 - e. Joseph did not confuse paternity of Jesus' father
 - Joseph did not begin marriage bed with Mary until after Jesus birth