

## *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our lord:  
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,**  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell.  
The third day he arose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

[18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

[23] "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). [24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

### **Luke 1:26-38**

[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. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" [29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [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.”

[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. [36] And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God.” [38] And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

## **What is the significance of the virgin birth?**

### **(1) It fulfills OT prophecies**

#### **Isaiah 7:10-17**

[10] Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, [11] “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” [12] But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” [13] And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

#### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

**[6] For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;**  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
**[7] Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it**  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **(2) It shows Jesus’ hypostatic union**

*(a) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,*

#### **Matthew 1:20**

[20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is **conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**

**Luke 1:35**

[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.

*(b) born of the virgin Mary*

**Matthew 1:23**

[23] “Behold, **the virgin shall conceive** and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”

**Luke 1:34**

[34] And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, **since I am a virgin?**”

**(3) It highlights our sinfulness**

**Matthew 1:21**

[21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, **for he will save his people** from their sins.”

**Ephesians 2:1-3**

[2:1] And **you were dead in the trespasses and sins** [2] in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—[3] among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**(4) It shows divine initiative**

**Genesis 17:15-17**

[15] And God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. [16] I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

[17] Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “**Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?**”

**Genesis 25:21**

[21] And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because **she was barren**. And the LORD **granted his prayer**, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

**1 Samuel 1:6, 19-20**

[5] But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb...

[19] They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and **the LORD remembered her**.

[20] And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

**Luke 1:5-7**

[5] In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. [6] And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. [7] But they **had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years**.