

The Begetting of Christ

A Trinitarian Consideration

Matthew 1:20 – Spoken to Joseph

But while he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the thing begotten in her by the Spirit is holy.

Luke 1:35 – Spoken to Mary

And the angel answering said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy thing being begotten also will be called Son of God.

- The Holy Spirit came upon Mary to provide the human embryo. No human *person* was provided, only a human nature. The pre-incarnate Christ remained in heaven during this procedure. The source of the embryo is not stated, but it was most likely *created* by the Holy Spirit.
- The power of the Most High, God the Father, overshadowed Mary so that she gave birth to a perfect human body.
- Both Matthew and Luke refer to the “thing” which was begotten by Holy Spirit. Matthew adds the words “in her.” This refers, then, not to the birth, but to the act of impregnation by the Holy Spirit which produced the perfect human body.
- The “thing” can only refer to Christ’s human body, in which the human nature resides. It cannot refer to the second person of the trinity, which remained in heaven until the birth (Hebrews 10:5-10).
- Both Matthew and Luke refer to the thing as “holy,” or set apart for God’s use. Matthew *affirms* the physical body’s holiness because Joseph needed to understand the pregnancy of his future wife. Luke *describes* the body’s holiness because Mary needed to realize was the Son of God.
- Mary is not the “mother of God” but rather the receptacle of the human body which the Holy Spirit implanted at the moment she became pregnant. She ultimately gave birth to the human body which the Second Person of the Trinity entered at birth.
- The Second Person, God the Son, did not enter the human body until it was complete. He did not spend nine months in Mary’s womb. (See Hebrews 10:5-10.)