THE QUESTION

What did the early Christians believe about the virgin birth of Jesus?

Asked by a THF member on May 22, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 16 numbered quotations · the 47 early Christian passages and 219 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-the-early-christians-believe-about-the-virgin-birth-of-jesus

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers taught that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary without a human father, as Isaiah foretold. They held that He took real flesh from her, and they saw His virgin birth as central to the faith and to undoing Eve's disobedience.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 8

Isaiah foretold a virgin would conceive

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin explains Isaiah's prophecy as meaning a conception without any man. Origen argues from the word sign: a young woman who was not a virgin giving birth would be no sign at all, so the prophecy must mean a true virgin.

1 “This, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive,” means that a virgin would conceive without intercourse.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 7, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

2 “What kind of sign, then, would it have been if a young woman who was not a virgin gave birth to a child?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 35 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 28, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

Conceived by God's power, not human seed

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin says the power of God came upon Mary so that she conceived while still a virgin. Gregory Thaumaturgus goes further and condemns anyone who says Christ was born from human seed like other people.

3 “For if she had been with anyone, she would no longer be a virgin; but the power of God came upon the virgin, overshadowed her, and caused her to conceive while still a virgin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 7, page 7** Read it in the library ›
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4 “If anyone says that Christ was born from human seed by the Virgin in the same way that all men are born, and refuses to acknowledge that He was made flesh by the Holy Spirit and the holy Virgin Mary, and became man from the seed of David, just as it is written, let him be anathema.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Gregory Thaumaturgus,** *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (c. 240–270 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 35, page 8 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 8

He took real flesh from Mary

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius answers those who said Christ only seemed to have a body: Mary truly conceived, and the Word was truly born of her. Tertullian points to Paul's word made to show that Christ's flesh was really formed from the virgin, not just passed through her.

5 “Mary truly conceived a body with God inhabiting it. And God the Word was truly born of the Virgin, having clothed Himself with a body with passions like ours.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Trallians* (c. 98–117 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 7 Read it in the library ›

6 “But by saying "made," he not only confirmed the statement, "The Word was made flesh," in John 1:14, but he also declared the reality of the flesh that was made of a virgin.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Flesh of Christ* 20 (c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 21, page 8 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 8

The virgin birth belonged to the creed

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Ignatius lists the virgin birth alongside Christ's baptism and crucifixion as things believers are fully persuaded of. The Liturgy of St. James also confesses in worship that He became flesh by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary.

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7 “that He was truly born of a virgin, was baptized by John, in order that all righteousness might be fulfilled by Him”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 2, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

8 “He came down from heaven and became flesh by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Godmother Mary, and lived among men.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Early Liturgies,** *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (c. 200–400 AD) **Source 24, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

He was born twice

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Lactantius explains that the same Son was born first of God before the world and later in human flesh. In His birth from the virgin He had no human father, just as in His birth from God He had no mother.

9 “First, He was born of God, in the spirit, before the beginning of the world. Afterward, He was born in human flesh, during the reign of Augustus.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 43 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 45, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

10 “But in His second birth, which was in the flesh, He was born from a virgin's womb without the role of a father.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Lactantius,** *Divine Institutes* 13 (c. 290–320 AD) **Source 46, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 8

Mary's obedience undid Eve's disobedience

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus compares the two virgins. Eve, still a virgin, disobeyed and brought death; Mary, also a virgin and engaged to a man, obeyed God's word. He presents the virgin birth as part of God's plan to reverse the fall.

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11 “Thus, as humanity fell into the captivity of death by a virgin, it is redeemed by a virgin; virginal disobedience is countered by virginal obedience.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

12 “Likewise did Mary, having a man engaged to her, and being nevertheless a virgin, by being obedient, become the cause of salvation for both herself and the whole human race.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 15, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

A sign no one expected

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says God gave a sign people never asked for, because no one thought a virgin could conceive and remain a virgin. Tertullian reads Simeon's words about a sign spoken against as pointing to this very birth.

13 “This is why the Lord Himself gave us a sign, in the depths below and the heights above, which man did not ask for, because he never expected that a virgin could conceive, or that one remaining a virgin could give birth to a son, and that what was born would be “God with us.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book III* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 14, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

14 “So then, we find what the sign is that will be spoken against: the conception and the giving birth of the Virgin Mary.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Flesh of Christ* 23 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 19, page 8** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 8 OF 8

Denying His birth unravels the gospel

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Archelaus argues that if Christ was not truly born of Mary, then He did not suffer, rise or judge, and Christian hope falls apart. Tertullian likewise ties Christ's birth and His real flesh together, since one proves the other.

15 “For just as all the law and the prophets are summed up in two words, so also all our hope is made to depend on the birth by the blessed Mary.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Archelaus,** *Disputation with Manes* 1 (c. 270–300 AD) **Source 41, page 9** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

16 “He did this because he was afraid that Christ's birth and His flesh gave mutual proof of each other's reality, since there is no birth without flesh, and no flesh without birth.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Flesh of Christ* 1 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 23, page 8** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages focus on how Christ was conceived and born; they do not settle questions about Mary's later life.
- The writers do not explain how the conception happened beyond saying it was by the Holy Spirit and the power of God.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 47 early Christian passages and 219 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–47, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 48–102, in Bible order), then 164 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages

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are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *47 passages from 13 writers*

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 1–5*

1 *Epistle to the Trallians* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "then did truly conceive a body which had God inhabiting it… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* **Quote 7, page 4** "He was truly born of a virgin, was baptized by John, in order that all righteousness might be fulfilled by Him… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 3) There is only One who became incarnate, and it was not the Father or the Paraclete, but the Son alone, who became so not in appearance or imagination, but in… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Epistles of Ignatius* (1885 English; on point 3) "of him, do ye by all means know that Jesus the Lord was truly born of Mary, being made of a woman… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistles of Ignatius* "and that of Eve from the side of Adam. And, indeed, the unique birth of the Lord was from a virgin alone. This happened not because the lawful union of… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 6–11*

6 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 1) it was necessary, according to the Father's will, that they should end in Him who was born of a virgin, from the family of Abraham, the tribe of Judah… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *First Apology* **Quotes 1, 3, page 2** "again to how Isaiah explicitly foretold that He would be born of a virgin; for he spoke this way: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son, and… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) "to those of whom the Christ should arise, according to the dispensation, through the Virgin Mary… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) "also, I say, came to be born man by the Virgin Mary, and I lives for ever… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) "also it pleased Him to be born man by the Virgin… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Dialogue with Trypho* (1885 English) "then you will show, [further], that He submitted to be born of the Virgin… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 12–18*

12 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 1) and give birth to a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which means God with us." This clearly signifies that the promise made to the forefathers was fulfilled… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Heresies: Book III* (on point 2) was complete, the kingdom of heaven was near, and He resided within those who believed in Him, born as Emmanuel of the Virgin. They confirm this, stating that before Joseph… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) **Quote 13, page 5** "also the Lord Himself gave us a sign, in the depth below, and in the height above, which man did not ask for, because he never expected that a virgin… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *Against Heresies: Book III* **Quote 12, page 5** last first. The prophet also indicates the same, saying, "instead of fathers, children have been born to you." For the Lord, having been born "the First-born of the dead… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Fragments from the Lost Writings of Irenæus* (1885 English; on point 5) "as He was born of Mary in the last times, so did He also proceed from God as the First-begotten of every creature… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 11, page 5** with a tree through His own obedience on the tree, thus undoing the deception that misled the virgin Eve, who was engaged to a man. This was joyfully announced through… [continues online] **read ›**

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18 *Against Heresies: Book III* (1885 English) “He is the same being that was born of Mary, as the testimony of Peter implies… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 19–23*

19 *On the Flesh of Christ* 23 **Quote 14, page 5** sign of Christ’s birth, as Isaiah says: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: look, a virgin will conceive and bear a son." Isaiah 7:14 So… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Against Marcion* 36 “the Virgin's birth. He who will not believe this will… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *On the Flesh of Christ* 20 **Quote 6, page 3** “was simply this: that He was born of a virgin in the… [continues online] **read ›**

22 *On the Flesh of Christ* 2 (1885 English; on point 3) “conception in the virgin's womb is also set plainly before us… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *On the Flesh of Christ* 1 **Quote 16, page 6** “it has already risen in Christ. Therefore, we must defend our belief in the resurrection by using the same source from which they draw their weapons to destroy it. Let… [continues online] **read ›**

Early Liturgies, *c. 200–400 AD · sources 24–25*

24 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 4** “having descended from heaven, and become flesh of the Holy Spirit and Virgin Godmother Mary, and having sojourned among men, fulfilled the dispensation for the salvation of our race… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Divine Liturgy of St. James* 1 (1885 English; on point 4) “submitted for our salvation to become flesh of the holy God-mother, and ever-virgin Mary… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · sources 26–27*

26 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 “He was not yet that Jesus born of the Virgin… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “whom but of Him who is born of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 28–32*

28 *Against Celsus* 35 **Quote 2, page 2** “whether they should believe it or not, that the prophet spoke about this man being born of a virgin because at His birth the words “God with us” were spoken… [continues online] **read ›**

29 *Against Celsus* 34 (on point 1) “as the prophets also foretold, it was from a virgin that one was to be born, according to the promised sign. He was to give His name to the event… [continues online] **read ›**

30 *Commentary on John* 2 (1885 English) “was a testimony to Christ and attested His divine conception and birth… [continues online] **read ›**

31 *Against Celsus* 66 (on point 2) “that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost… [continues online] **read ›**

32 *Against Celsus* 2 (1885 English; on point 1) “that Emmanuel should be conceived by a virgin… [continues online] **read ›**

Gregory Thaumaturgus, *c. 240–270 AD · sources 33–36*

33 *On the Trinity* 1 (on point 3) “Word took our substance of the Virgin Mary… [continues online] **read ›**

34 *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (1885 English; on point 2) “could one say that Christ was born of the seed of man by the Virgin, when the holy Gospel and the angel, in proclaiming the good tidings, testify of Mary… [continues online] **read ›**

35 *Twelve Topics on the Faith* 1 (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** “any one affirms that Christ was born of the seed of man by the Virgin, in the same manner as all men are born, and refuses to acknowledge that He… [continues online] **read ›**

36 *A Sectional Confession of Faith* 1 (on point 3) “is one Son, both before the incarnation and after the incarnation. The same Son is both man and God, both together as one. The God the Word is not one… [continues online] **read ›**

Novatian, *c. 240–258 AD · source 37*

37 *Treatise Concerning the Trinity* 24 “You shall call His name Emmanuel,” which is interpreted, “God with us… [continues online] **read ›**

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Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 38*

38 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English; on point 1) “that He was to be born of a virgin, they read this prophecy: Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call… [continues online] **read ›**

Archelaus, *c. 270–300 AD · sources 39–41*

39 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 8) “man indeed, and yet was not a man. Archelaus said: Are you not, then, of the opinion that He was born of the Virgin Mary? Manes said: God forbid that… [continues online] **read ›**

40 *Disputation with Manes* 1 (on point 8) “He who was born of Mary is the Son, who chose… [continues online] **read ›**

41 *Disputation with Manes* 1 **Quote 15, page 6** “all these consequences follow when you deny that He was born of Mary… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 42–43*

42 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 “Therefore the prophet brought the virgin from Nazareth, so that she might give birth in Bethlehem to her child who brings salvation, and brought her back again to Nazareth, so… [continues online] **read ›**

43 *Oration Concerning Simeon and Anna* 1 (1885 English) “must holy virgin mother, therefore, escaped entirely the manner of women even before she brought forth: doubtless, in order that the Holy Spirit, betrothing her unto Himself, and sanctifying her… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · sources 44–47*

44 *Divine Institutes* 12 (on point 1) that God incarnate was about to come to men. For Emmanuel means God with us. Because when He was born of a virgin, men ought to confess that God was… [continues online] **read ›**

45 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 43 **Quote 9, page 4** “not only by words but also by deeds. Therefore He was born a second time as a man, from a virgin, without a father, so that, just as in His… [continues online] **read ›**

46 *Divine Institutes* 13 **Quote 10, page 4** “became both the Son of God through the Spirit, and the Son of man through the flesh—that is, both God and man… [continues online] **read ›**

47 *Epitome of the Divine Institutes* 44 (1885 English; on point 1) “Isaiah Isaiah 7:14 it is thus written: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and you shall call His name Immanuel… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *55 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

48 **Genesis 21:2** Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in old age, at the set time of which the Lord had spoken to him. **read ›**

49 **Genesis 24:16** The virgin was very beautiful to look at. She was a virgin; no man had known her. She went down to the spring, filled her water jar, and came up. **read ›**

50 **Genesis 25:22** The children leaped within her, and she said, “If it is going to be like this for me, why has this come to me?” And she went to inquire of the Lord. **read ›**

51 **Genesis 25:24** When the days were fulfilled for her to give birth, there were twins in her womb. **read ›**

52 **Exodus 2:2** She conceived and bore a male child; and when they saw that he was beautiful, they hid him three months. **read ›**

53 **Leviticus 21:3** and for a virgin sister who is near to him and has not been given to a husband; for these he may defile himself. **read ›**

54 **Leviticus 21:13** He shall take as his wife a virgin of his own race. **read ›**

55 **Numbers 5:28** But if the woman has not been defiled and is clean, she shall be free and shall conceive seed. **read ›**

56 **Deuteronomy 23:3** An Ammonite or a Moabite shall not enter the assembly of the Lord; even to the tenth generation he shall not enter the assembly of the Lord, even forever, (Septuagint Deuteronomy 23:4 (Deuteronomy 23:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

57 **Judges 13:3** The angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive a son. **read ›**

58 **Judges 13:5** For behold, you are with child and shall bear a son, and no iron shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines.” **read ›**

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59 **Judges 13:7** He said to me, ‘Behold, you are with child and shall bear a son. Now drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the child shall be holy to God from the womb until the day of his death.’ ” **read ›**

60 **Esther 2:12** Now this was the time for a young woman to go in to the king, when she had completed twelve months; for so the days of their care are completed: six months anointing themselves with oil of myrrh, and six months with spices and the women’s ointments. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive in the womb, and shall bear a son, and you shall call his name Immanuel. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 17:4** In that day the glory of Jacob will fail, and the rich things of his glory will be shaken. **read ›**

63 **Isaiah 17:6** And it will be as if stubble were left in it, or like two or three olive berries on the very top, or as if four or five were left on their branches. Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 18:7** At that time gifts will be brought to the Lord of hosts from a people hard pressed and stripped, and from a people great from now and for all time—a nation hoping and trodden down, which is in a part of a river of its land—to the place where the name of the Lord of hosts is, Mount Zion. **read ›**

65 **Jeremiah 50:7** All who found them devoured them; their enemies said, “Let us not release them, because they sinned against the Lord: a pasture of righteousness to him who gathered their fathers.” (Septuagint Jeremiah 27:7 (Jeremiah 50:7 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

66 **Ezekiel 14:1** And men from among the elders of the people of Israel came to me and sat before me. **read ›**

67 **Amos 3:13** Hear, O priests, and testify to the house of Jacob, says the Lord God Almighty. **read ›**

68 **Amos 7:2** And it shall be, if it finishes devouring the grass of the land— and I said, “O Lord God, be gracious! Who will raise up Jacob? For he is very small. **read ›**

69 **Amos 7:5** And I said, “O Lord, cease, I pray! Who will raise up Jacob? For he is very small. Relent, O Lord, concerning this.” **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:13** their offspring is cursed. For blessed is the barren woman who is undefiled, who has not known a bed of transgression; she will have fruit at the visitation of souls. **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:2** and in the womb of a mother I was molded into flesh, within the time of ten months, compacted in blood from the seed of a man and the pleasure that came with sleep. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:5** For no king had any other beginning of birth; **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Solomon 7:27** Though she is one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God and prophets. **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Solomon 8:20** or rather, being good, I entered an undefiled body. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 15:2** And she will meet him like a mother, and like a virgin bride she will welcome him. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:10** in her virginity, lest she be defiled and become pregnant in her father’s house; when with a husband, lest she transgress, and when married, lest she be barren. **read ›**

77 **Wisdom of Sirach 49:7** For they mistreated him; yet he was consecrated in the womb as a prophet, to root out and harm and destroy, and likewise to build and to plant. **read ›**

78 **Baruch 3:37** After this he appeared on earth and lived among men. **read ›**

79 **2 Maccabees 14:35** “You, O Lord, who have need of nothing at all, were pleased that there should be a temple for your dwelling among us. **read ›**

80 **4 Maccabees 15:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

81 **4 Maccabees 15:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

82 **4 Maccabees 17:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

83 **4 Maccabees 17:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

84 **4 Maccabees 18:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

85 **1 Enoch 62:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

86 **1 Enoch 71:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

87 **1 Enoch 106:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

88 **1 Enoch 106:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

89 **Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was like this: After his mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found pregnant by the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

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90 **Matthew 1:20** But when he thought about 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 to yourself Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **read ›**

91 **Matthew 1:23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,” which means “God with us.” **read ›**

92 **Luke 1:27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man whose name was Joseph, of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. **read ›**

93 **Luke 1:31** Behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and you shall bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **read ›**

94 **Luke 1:34** Mary said to the angel, “How shall this be, since I do not know a man?” **read ›**

95 **Luke 1:35** The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one to be born shall be called the Son of God. **read ›**

96 **John 1:13** who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God. **read ›**

97 **John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we looked upon his glory, glory as of the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. **read ›**

98 **Acts 7:14** Joseph sent and summoned Jacob his father and all his relatives, seventy-five souls. **read ›**

99 **Acts 9:5** He said, “Who are you, Lord?” The Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. **read ›**

100 **Acts 26:18** to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, and receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faithfulness toward me.’ **read ›**

101 **Galatians 4:4** But when the fullness of the time came, God sent out his Son, born to a woman, born under the law, **read ›**

102 **Philippians 2:7** but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of men. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *164 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 7:13 · 11:4 · 12:7 · 26:4 · 32:28 · 49:11

Exodus 7:1 · 13:2

Numbers 24:17

Deuteronomy 32:8

Joshua 1:1 · 5:2

2 Samuel 5:8

2 Kings 19:20

Psalms 19:5 · 136:12

Isaiah 5:26 · 7:11 · 8:3 · 9:6 · 11:2 · 19:20 · 45:7 · 49:22 · 53:7 · 66:7

Jeremiah 1:5 · 8:6 · 17:7 · 17:9 · 25:3

Ezekiel 1:15

Daniel 3:27

Hosea 1:7 · 8:6

Joel 2:28

Amos 4:11

Micah 4:1

Habakkuk 2:20 · 3:3

Malachi 3:6

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Matthew 1:16 · 1:21 · 2:1 · 2:11 · 2:13 · 2:19 · 3:11 · 3:13 · 3:15 · 3:17 · 4:3 · 5:17 · 5:37 · 5:45 · 10:28 · 10:40 · 11:14 · 12:8 · 12:47 · 15:24 · 16:16 · 16:18 · 19:28 · 21:28 · 21:35 · 21:39 · 21:42 · 21:43 · 22:23 · 22:42 · 25:29

Mark 2:28 · 16:15

Luke 1:26 · 1:28 · 1:36 · 1:38 · 1:42 · 2:1 · 2:8 · 2:13 · 2:22 · 2:23 · 2:25 · 2:27 · 2:34 · 2:36 · 10:16 · 11:24 · 18:1 · 18:7 · 18:10 · 18:18 · 18:19 · 18:21 · 18:38 · 18:39 · 18:40 · 18:42 · 19:42

John 1:8 · 1:9 · 1:18 · 2:19 · 3:13 · 3:14 · 5:22 · 7:38 · 8:40 · 10:30 · 10:36 · 11:25 · 11:42 · 13:20 · 14:6 · 14:30 · 17:3 · 17:6 · 19:37

Acts 8:9 · 13:32 · 15:10 · 26:23

Romans 1:3 · 1:20 · 6:3 · 6:10 · 7:15 · 8:26 · 11:33 · 11:36

1 Corinthians 2:8 · 5:7 · 6:14 · 6:19 · 11:11 · 15:8 · 15:32 · 15:50

2 Corinthians 4:13 · 5:17 · 5:21

Galatians 3:1 · 3:28 · 4:9 · 6:14

Ephesians 2:12 · 4:10

Philippians 2:6 · 2:9 · 2:25

Colossians 1:18

1 Thessalonians 4:5

Titus 1:10

Hebrews 7:3 · 8:1 · 8:12 · 11:32 · 11:37

James 1:17

1 Peter 2:2

2 Peter 1:4 · 2:22

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did the early Christians believe about the virgin birth of Jesus?” on May 22, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY