

THE NECESSITY OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH

- Is the virgin birth critical to the gospel message...or a take it or leave it aspect of faith?
 - You can't have the gospel (salvation) without it - can't be a Christian if you deny it
 - The "*round young virgin*"^(round yon) is indeed necessary (I thought it meant great with child)
- Prophecy
 - Genesis 3:15 proto-evangelium (first mention of the gospel)
 - Constellation Virgo (virgin hold grain /corn... child - Gen. 1:14 - signs)
 - TRADITION - Zoroaster was a student of Daniel and told when a star appeared in Coma (Virgo's house) the Messiah would have come
 - the Magi were looking for a star at a certain point of history
 - Isaiah 7:14
 - That sign was fulfilled - Matt. 1:22-23
 - Mary was not a perpetual virgin - Matt. 1:24-25 (until) Matt. 13:55-56
 - Babylon Bee Headline - "... *You're going to be a perpetual what??!!*
- Theology
 - 2nd Adam
 - Jesus is the NEW MAN but not taken from the OLD MAN (representative)
 - Totally human but a totally separate line - Jesus is the Head of a new race of men
 - Sinless
 - Everyone born from the 1st Adam is a sinner - sinner by birth and choice
 - If Jesus was not born of a virgin He could not be the Savior (inherit sin nature)

WHY DECEMBER 25TH?

- We don't know what day. Scripture doesn't say
 - It is dangerous to be an Advent date-setter (1st or 2nd) can be deceptive
 - The only hints are to the season of the year
 - Shepherds in field at night (spring or summer - probably not winter)
 - Roman census - (not scheduled when travel difficult) (2 Sam. 11:1)
- The theory of using pagan gods "birthdays" or days associated with them
 - A long list can be found - Horus, Osiris, Mithras, Buddha, Hercules, Tammuz, Adonis, Hermes, PrometheusNimrod, Baal....
 - A long deep rabbit hole
 - I am skeptical that so many false gods have the same day/birthday
 - ?????? (this could very well be so, but it seems like a set up and straw man - too easy)
- Jewish history
 - Events surrounding Hanukkah
 - Antiochus Epiphanies desecrated the Temple on Dec. 25 (Apocrypha / Josephus / Henry)
 - offered a pig on the alter and set up image of Zeus....
 - forced celebration of Antiochus on 25th of every month (birthday)
 - Maccabean revolt - Temple cleansed and rededicated on 25th (3 yrs later)

- Abomination of Desolation and rededication on same day - 3 yrs apart - interesting coincidence
 - Hanukah - 14th -22nd (lights miraculously stayed lit for 8 days - no oil)
 - Jesus may have observed this - John 10:22-23
- Church history
 - First mention of a Date of Birth - 195 AD Clement - May 20/21 (or April 19/20)
 - He also said Jesus died on - 3/21....or....4/21....or..... 4/15
 - his claim was that the dates were carefully searched out
 - It wasn't until 400 years after His birth that December 25th was "settled upon"
 - 4th century addition / celebration / speculation / adaptation
 - When the Roman emperor Constantine "converted" Rome adapted
 - There are two main theories that I could corroborate from encyclopedias and from church history books/dictionaries
- Sol Invictus / Saturnalia / worship of unconquered sun / worship of Apollo
 - There was Roman festival that observed the winter solstice - December 17-23
 - days are the shortest and sun is lowest in the sky (winter)
 - when the sun is lowest (21st / 22nd) start of winter....about 3 days later the sun is observed to be rising in the sky (can't keep the sun down)
 - (shadow on north side of church big in winter....almost gone in summer)
 - Apollo was worshipped on this day - 25th - THE UNCONQUERED SUN
 - When Rome became "*Christian*" it just incorporated the old religious festivals and "*Christianized*" them (Constantine honored & emulated Apollo)
 - Ambrose (4th cen) "*Christ is the true sun that outshone the fallen gods of the old order*"
 - Dionysus "*Christmas fell on the same day as Sol Invictus*"
- Old Tradition that great men's conception and death were on the same day
 - Birthdays were generally not observed by holy men
 - Roman Historian Sextus Julius Africanus
 - Creation /Christ's conception /Death were on the same day - March 25th
 - 9 months after March 25th is....ta da! - December 25th
 - some say it was April 6 (9 months later = Jan. 6 - Eastern church)
 - 12 days of Christmas (?? Dec. 25 - Jan. 6 ??)
- We don't know when
 - The date 12/25 is a mixture of Roman Paganism, Roman Catholicism, superstition, tradition, adaptation, speculation, incorporation, duplication.....
 - We could just as well say that Jesus was born under the sign Virgo and so He was born in August or September (but that would be superstitious)
- Beware of being an Advent Date-setter
 - It can be dangerous, deceptive and misleading
 - 1 Cor. 4:6 - *do not go beyond that which is written*
 - No one knows the day or the hour
 - The Holy Spirit didn't want us to know otherwise He would have told us
 - He recorded other specific days, months & years - but not with Jesus' birth
- Take advantage of the opportunity of people thinking about Jesus' coming