

The Birth and Boyhood of Jesus

- The birth narratives only occur in two of the gospels: Matthew and Luke
- Mark begins with the baptism of Jesus
- John begins with the pre-existence of Jesus





MATTHEW



Matthew Chapters 1-2



LUKE



Luke Chapters 1-2

Genealogy

- Both Matthew and Luke have Genealogies though they are not from the same starting point
 - Matthew 1:1-17
 - Luke 3:23-38
- Genealogies are theologically driven, thus they should not be expected to contain every single person in the family
- Notice the way that Matthew has divided the genealogy in Matthew 1: 17

- **Matthew 1:17** 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.
- Note the exile
- Note the number 14 (David is 14 in Hebrew)
- Note the name of David in v. 1, 6, and 17

The Virgin Birth

- The Virgin Birth is spoken of by both Matthew and Luke as well as predicted by Isaiah the prophet



Texts Testify to the Virgin Birth

- **Isaiah 7:14** 14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.
- **Matthew 1:16** 16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.
- **Matthew 1:18** 18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Texts Testify to the Virgin Birth

- **Matthew 1:22-23** 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Texts Testify to the Virgin Birth

- **Luke 1:26-27** 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Excurses on Luke 1:41-43

- **Luke 1:41-43** 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! 43 "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?"

Life at Conception?

- Notice that John is spoken of as “leaping in her womb.” Clearly because he recognized Jesus.
- The text seems to indicate that Mary is already the mother of the Lord, though he is not born yet.
- Both of these are human babies



The Perpetual Virginity

- Many in the church have argued that Mary remained a virgin for the rest of her life.
- While this is a doctrine that is held by the Roman Catholic church today, it has not always been so.



Luther on Perpetual Virginity

- **[Christ's birth] was without the co-operation of a man, and she remained a virgin after that. (Luther's Works, Vol. 22, p. 23)**
- **I am inclined to agree with those who declare that "brothers" really means "cousins" here [speaking of Jesus' brothers] . . . (Luther's works, Vol. 22, p. 215)**

Calvin on Perpetual Virginity

- In the Hebrew manner relatives of any sort are called ‘brethren’, as we have said elsewhere. It was therefore very ignorant of Helvidius to imagine that Mary had many sons because there are several mentions of Christ’s brethren. (Comm. on Synoptics 2.136)
- Helvidius debated Jerome on the perpetual virginity, arguing against it.

Mary's Dangerous Song

- In Luke 1:46-55 Mary has a song that is seen by many today to be sweet, kind, and nice.
- A closer look indicates that Mary realizes that this child she is carrying will be the great messiah that was expected.
- This message is seen as so subversive that for a period of time the government of Guatemala banned its public recitation.

Joseph's Silence

- Joseph never says a word in the gospel stories
- He is the picture of a strong stable person who believes God and holds on to that belief with all that he has.
- *Matthew speaks of him as a “righteous man” in 1:19

Jesus' Boyhood

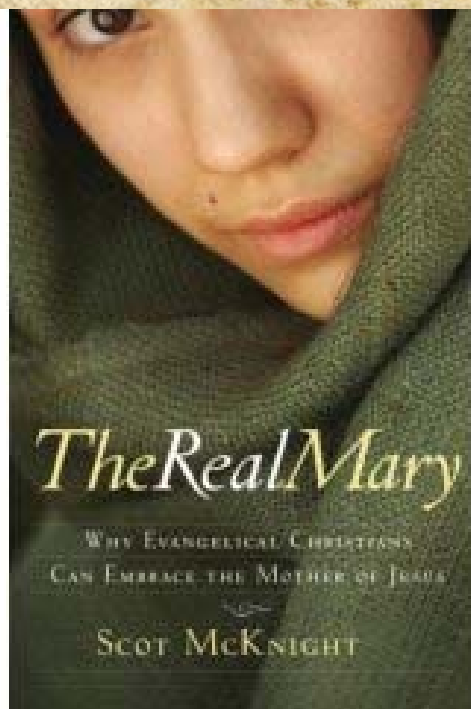
- One of the most interesting things about the gospels is that they tell us almost nothing when it comes to the time between Jesus' birth and his public ministry
- The only glimpse that we have into this period is from Luke 2
- The “Temple Alone” Incident Luke 2:42-50
- **Luke 2:52** 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Jesus' Boyhood

- It is because of this lack of information about Jesus boyhood that spurious gospels show up claiming to speak about the boyhood of Jesus
- The Infancy Gospel of Thomas tells of Jesus doing a variety of “boyish things” such as:
 - Striking playmates dead (ch. 4)
 - Raising other playmates from the dead (ch. 9)
 - Fixing his Father’s carpentry mistakes (ch. 13)

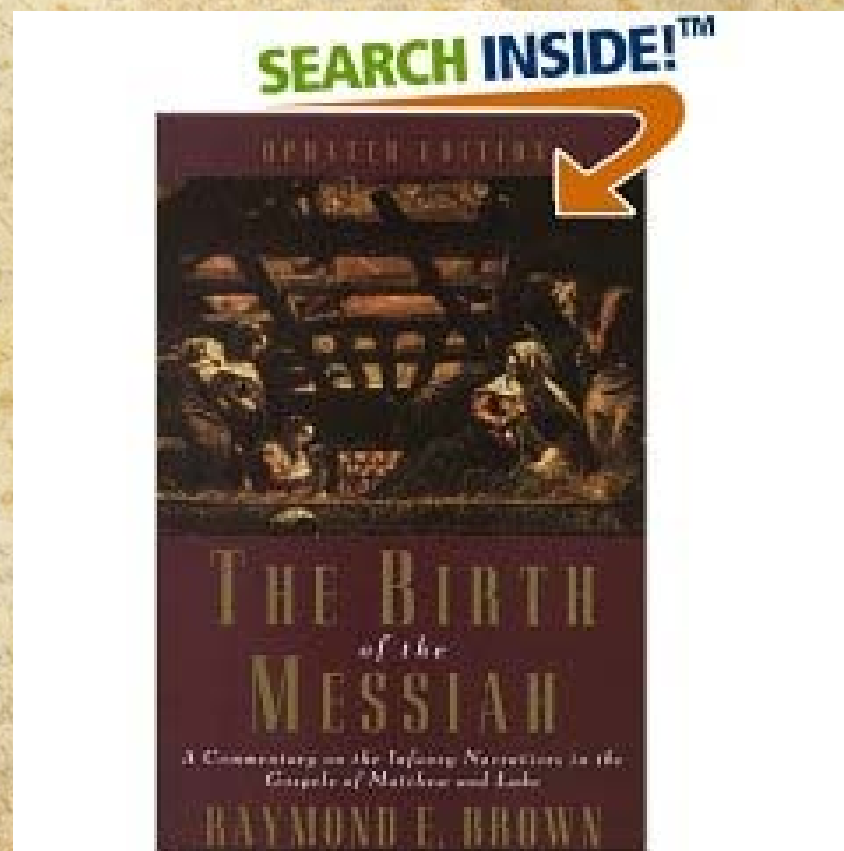
Helpful Books

- **The Real Mary: Why Evangelical Christians Can Embrace the Mother of Jesus** – Scot McKnight



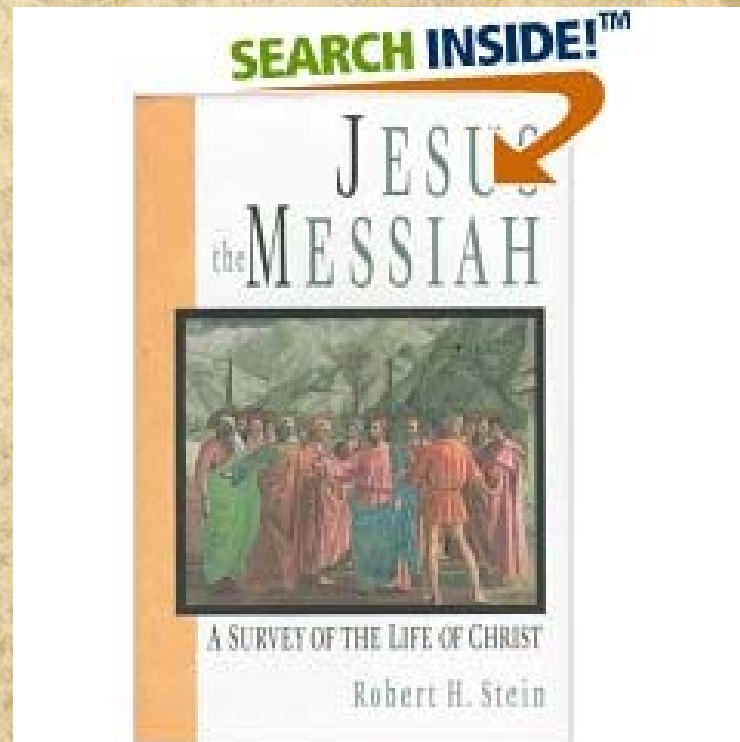
Helpful Books

- **Birth of the Messiah- Raymond Brown**



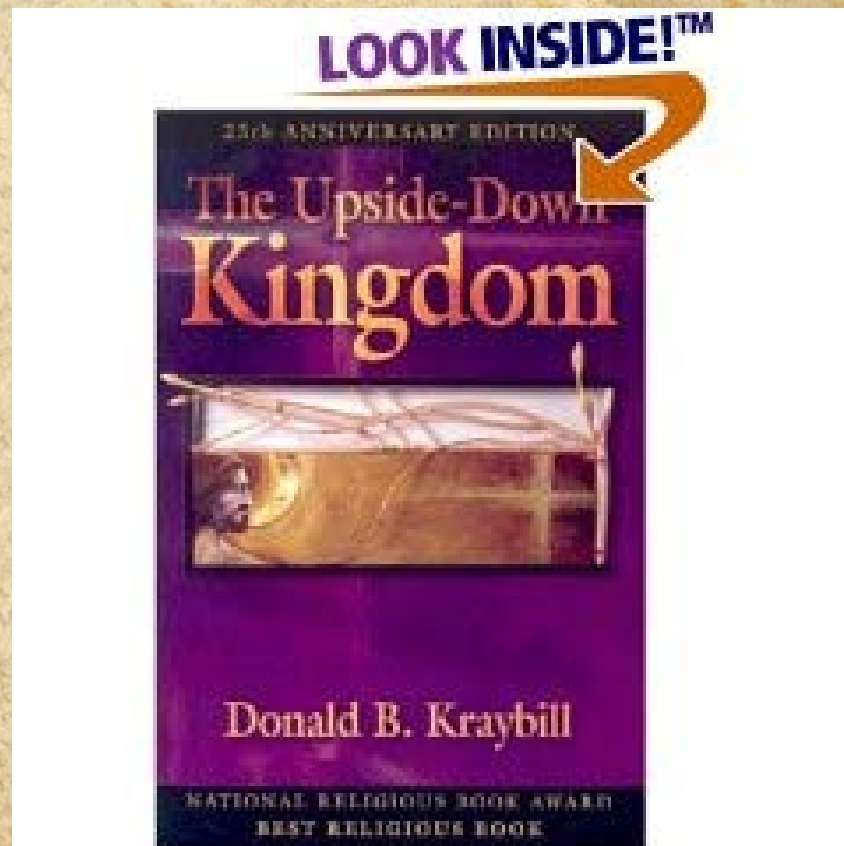
Helpful Books

- **Jesus the Messiah: A Survey of the Life of Christ by Robert Stein**



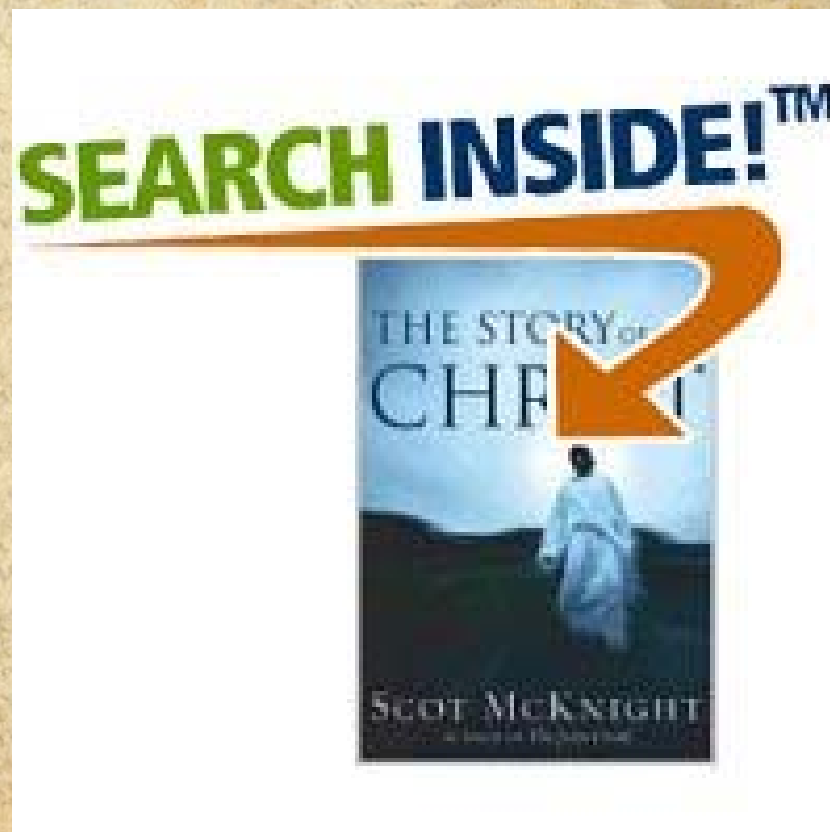
Helpful Books

- **The Upside-Down Kingdom** by Donald Kraybill



Helpful Books

- **The Story of the Christ** by Scot McKnight



Helpful Books

- More book suggestions, sermon MP3s, as well as handouts from the last two weeks are available on my website:
- www.drsamlam.com
- Click on the right hand “Sunday School” link for easy access

