



REVISITED

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

JoLynn Gower

Spring 2019

217-493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

Lesson 3

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- × **Romans 1:21-25** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **exchanged** the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- × Exchanged: *allasso*: to alter, to substitute one thing for another

CLAIMS BEING MADE

- ✘ Somebody might dig up DNA proof positive that Jesus had an earthly biological father (named Larry)
- ✘ There really wasn't a virgin birth because the word doesn't have to mean "virgin"
- ✘ Virgin was just used to appeal to people who believed in other gods
- ✘ Jesus didn't think of Himself as the Son of God
- ✘ He didn't see his purpose as dying for the sins of the world
- ✘ Its troubling to think of Jesus as the only way to salvation

QUESTION OF THE DAY:

- ✘ If there is no virgin birth, has Christianity failed?
- ✘ So far we have determined:
 - 1.** Adam intentionally sinned, skewing his God-image, and procreated in his own, skewed image
 - 2.** Descendants of Adam inherit a sin nature and are thus in slavery to sin
 - 3.** God provided a means for redeeming a slave, but the redeemer had to be a blood relative who was willing and able
 - 4.** All humans are in slavery and ineligible (unable) by virtue of being of the seed of man
 - 5.** We need a human (blood relative) not born of the seed of man to redeem us

VIRGIN BIRTH NECESSARY?

- × In God's plan, the virgin birth was necessary
- × **Isaiah 7:13-14** Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? 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.
- × Sign: *oth*: a miracle; something to bear witness; an attesting miracle
- × Virgin: *almah*: a young unmarried woman; virgin
- × Immanuel: God is with us
- × **Matthew 1:18** 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. (not named Larry!)

MESSAGE TO MARY

- ✘ **Luke 1:30-35** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."
- ✘ **Luke 1:38** And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word."

ANY SYMPATHY FOR JOSEPH?

- × **Matthew 1:19-23** And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, 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 Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated

MARRIAGE CUSTOM

- × The engagement period was much more formal than in our culture; a covenant had been entered into
 1. The agreement/covenant
 2. Drink the commitment cup
 3. Groom goes to his father's house to prepare a place
 4. Groom leaves bride with gifts while he was gone
 5. Father tells groom when he could return for bride
 6. Groom comes for bride with a shofar, a friend announcing the coming of the groom, and the groom's command for his bride to come with him
- × **1 Thessalonians 4:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.....

JESUS' VIEW OF HIS PURPOSE

- × **Matthew 5:17** "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill."
- × **Matthew 18:11** "For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost."
- × **Luke 12:50** "But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished!"
- × **Mark 14:61-62** But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed *One*?" And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."
- × **Luke 22:70** And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "Yes, I am."

SOME PROBLEMS

- × **If** you don't believe that the Holy Spirit fathered Jesus, then you don't believe the Bible is inspired by God
- × **If** you don't believe that Jesus could not have an earthly father and still be our redeemer, then you don't understand the redemption model!
- × **If** you don't believe that Jesus was a human, then He wasn't a blood relative
- × **Hebrews 2:14-15** ...since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
- × And, Jesus repeatedly called himself "Son of man"

BORN UNDER THE LAW

- × **Galatians 4:4-5** But when the fullness of the time came God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
- × **Galatians 3:21** Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.
- × The Law could not impart life because there was no eligible person to fulfill it
- × So God became an eligible Kinsman Redeemer and offered redemption to any who would receive Him
- × **John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name...

THE CALL

- × **1 Corinthians 1:22-24** For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- × Called: *kletos* (from *klesis*): *invited*
- × **1 Timothy 2:3-6** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.
- × Ransom: *antilutron*: redemption price