

SIDE A

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” Matthew 1:23

His Birth in History. “. . . that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35). Jesus was born *into* this world, not *from* it. He didn't emerge out of history; He came into history from the outside. Jesus is not the best human being the human race can boast of— He is a Being for whom the human race can take no credit at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate— God coming into human flesh from outside it. His life is the highest and the holiest entering through the most humble of doors. Jesus' birth was an advent— the appearance of God in human form.

His Birth in Me. “My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you . . .” (Galatians 4:19). Just as He came into human history from outside it, He must also come into us from outside. Have we allowed our personal human life to become a “Bethlehem” for Jesus? We can't enter the realm of the kingdom of God unless we are born again from above by a birth totally unlike physical birth. “You must be born again” (John 3:7). This is not a command, but a fact based on the authority of God. The evidence of the new birth is that we yield ourselves so completely to God that “Christ is formed” in us. And once “Christ is formed” within us, His nature immediately begins to work through us.

God Evident in the Flesh. This is what is made so profoundly possible for you and for me through the redemption of man by Jesus Christ.

Adapted from Oswald Chambers “My utmost for His highest”

The cure for pain:

I'm not sure why it always flows downhill
why broken cisterns never could stay filled
I've spent ten years singing gravity away
But the water keeps on falling from the sky

And here tonight while the stars are blacking out
with every hope and dream I've ever had in doubt
I've spent ten years trying to sing these doubts away
But the water keeps on falling from ~~the sky~~
my eyes

And heaven knows... heaven knows
I tried to find a cure for the pain
Oh my lord! to suffer like you do...
It would be a lie to run away

So blood is fire pulsing through our veins
we're neither riders or fools behind the reins
I've spent 10 years trying to sing it all away
but the water keeps on falling from my tries