

Jesus is God your Savior

December 18, 2016 – Matthew 1:20-23

“But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife (woman), because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the Name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: (Isa. 7:14 The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, ‘God with us.’”

So you found out that your girl-friend is pregnant, and you know – without a doubt - that the child is not your child!

What would you do?

How would you react?

How would you feel?

Joseph found out his fiancé – MARY - was pregnant, and he knew that the child was NOT his child because he knew that he did not have sex with her. So who did?

According to O.T. Law, she should be stoned to death for committing adultery outside of marriage. As should adulterous men, as is recorded in Deuteronomy: Sex outside of Marriage is a sin to which the Lord attaches some serious consequences.

Deut. 22:20-22 – “If the charge is true and no proof of the girl’s virginity can be found, 21 – she shall be brought to the door of her father’s house and there the men of her town shall stone her to death. She has done a disgraceful thing in Israel by being promiscuous while still in her father’s house. You must purge the evil from among you. 22 – If a man is found sleeping with another man’s wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die. You must purge the evil from Israel.”

In the New Testament times in which we live, sex outside of marriage is still a serious issue as recorded in: **Ephesians 5:3**

“Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”

In **Matthew 1:19** – we learned that Joseph was a “Righteous Man” a Just Man. A Believer. Joseph was made right by faith in the promised Messiah. - δικαίος -

Because God dwelled in the heart of Joseph through faith, Joseph was a kind hearted man, and he did not want his beloved Mary to be stoned to death. He loved her, yet he could no longer marry her due to a loss of trust in her.

Imagine the emotional struggle and turmoil in the heart of Joseph.

The Life of the Baby Jesus was in danger, because had Mary been stoned to death, the baby Jesus would have died. We thank God that He preserved the baby Jesus for the sake of our eternal welfare.

Now turning briefly to Mary we want to also note that Mary also would have had an emotional struggle.

She was pregnant, and knew that she did not have sex. Mary knew that God the Holy Spirit had come upon her as she was told by the angel Gabriel. (Luke 1:26-38)

How many people would believe her when she tells them that she is pregnant by God the Holy Spirit? (We know that Elizabeth believed – see Luke. 1:39ff.) Yet Mary put her trust, her faith in the Word of God as delivered by the angel Gabriel.

Joseph also demonstrated a great faith in the Word of the Lord as he was told, by, "*The Angel Of The Lord.*" He humbly submitted to the Word of the Lord, and then took Mary as his wife.

Imagine the whispers and the gossip going around town concerning Joseph and Mary. "*She claims to be pregnant by God the Holy Spirit.*" Joseph married "*That*" woman! This pregnancy of Mary was a direct prophecy of the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah.

Isa. 7:14 – "*The Virgin will be with child.*" 700 years in advance, God made it clear.

This promise from Isaiah is one of many promises that God made throughout the Old Testament beginning all the way back to the Garden of Eden with that 1st Promise, where God promised that the seed, born of a woman, would crush the head of Satan.

To Crush Satan's head was a definite promise that Satan's power and all that Satan represented would be destroyed. By Crushing Satan's head it was in direct reference to the fact that God in Christ crushed sin, death and hell.

Vs. 21 – She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the Name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.

In the Name – Jesus – God clearly defines the purpose of Jesus, To Save His people from their sins.

The Name Jesus is derived from the O.T. Name Yeshua, or more commonly known today as Joshua.
Joshua meaning – God Saves.

Who does God save? His People. Not just the biological descendents of Israel, but God saves, Spiritual Israel. All those who believe regardless of what nation they come from, regardless of color of skin, regardless of gender.

Vs. 22 – All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: (Isa. 7:14)

Vs. 23 – The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, 'God with us.

Jesus IS God! He is not simply a representation of God or figuratively spoken of as a type of a god.

Rather, JESUS IS GOD. 100% God and 100% Man.

This is what it took to save Mankind from sin, death and hell.

God Himself, took our Salvation upon Himself. God made our Salvation, His business.

Regardless of what type of rumors and gossip are going around, you can be confident of your Salvation. You can be confident of Heaven where there is no more sin, death or pain or sorrow or grief (Rev. 21:4), and we will be given our new and glorified bodies (I Cor. 15:42-4), because of Jesus – God With Us. AMEN!