

December 22, 2019 – Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV)

Theme: Jesus Is Immanuel, And Will Save His People From Their Sins

“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 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. (Luke 1:31 = The Power of the Most High will overshadow you.) 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.’ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the Name Jesus.”

Mary Was betrothed to Joseph. According to the custom of the day, Mary and Joseph were married in the eyes of God. They had promised to be faithful to one another, as long as they both shall live.

Joseph – The husband – now finds his wife pregnant. He knew that it was not his child. What to do?

According to O.T. Law, she should be stoned to death for committing adultery, that is having sex outside of marriage. As should adulterous men, as is recorded in Deut. 22:20-22: It was a serious sin against the Lord.

The Life of Jesus was in jeopardy. Had Joseph been filled with anger and resentment against Mary and had her dragged before the courts, Satan would have been jumping for joy, because Jesus would have been dead before HE would even be born!

Instead, Joseph was a believer and in kindness and gentleness was going to divorce Mary quietly. But this was not to happen either.

God intervened -- and the Lord, Who was in the womb, is now served by one of HIS own angels.

The angel of the Lord directed Joseph to take Mary as his wife, because the child in her was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph was to name the baby Jesus because HE would save His people from their sins. - יְהוֹשֻׁעַ – Joshua –The Lord Saved. The angel of the Lord also told Joseph that the child conceived in Mary was Immanuel which mean: *“God With Us.”*

If you or someone you know is struggling with this, imagine how Joseph would have felt and what he would have thought. Imagine the questions.

In a Commentary by Matthew Henry, he writes: **“The mystery of the incarnation of Christ is to be adored, NOT pried into.”**

And so, Let us Adore Him. Let us marvel at the Lord God. Let us stand back in awe. Let us kneel before HIM.

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

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.

And so 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 not more sin, death or pain or sorrow or grief, and we will be given our new and glorified Bodies, because of Jesus – God With Us. AMEN!