

## His Name Is Salvation

**TEXT:** Matthew 1:18-25

**THEME:** The Messianic Promise of God fulfilled.

### Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. *NKJV*

**INTRODUCTION:** If this passage teaches us anything, it teaches us that God is sovereign and faithful. He keeps His promises & blesses those who obey Him.

Mary & Joseph lived in a time when God's people had no hope and no expectation of deliverance, liberty, or prosperity in the natural sense. They lived under the iron fist of Rome, and Rome placed a heavy burden on those peoples and nations it occupied. Rome's treatment of the Jews was certainly no less oppressive, and was likely more oppressive, than their occupation of other lands. This was the time in which God chose to send His Deliverer—*His Christ or Messiah*.

This account reveals God's dealings with a faithful girl of probably 13 or 14 years of age, and young man of probably 19 or 20 years of age. They were poor and lived in Nazareth—a *city of which it was said that nothing good came from it*. The religious people of that day considered it a useless place with equally useless inhabitants. Even the godly Nathaniel, who became a disciple of Jesus Christ asked, "**Can anything good come out of Nazareth?**" (NKJ John 1:46).

Yet Mary & Joseph were thrust into the limelight of human history from this stage—***both their lives and history would be changed through these events***.

### 1. **THE PREGNANCY OF MARY DISCOVERED** (v. 18).

#### Matthew 1:18

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. *NKJV*

1. When we hear the word **betrothed**, we think of an *engagement*. But a betrothal in Bible times was different than an engagement.
  - A betrothal was a formal agreement—a contract or covenant—that could only be broken by a formal divorce.

- A modern engagement can be broken simply because the couple changed their minds for some reason or no reason. There is no formal decree required to break a modern engagement.
- 2. Mary, a girl of probably 13 or 14, was betrothed to Joseph, a young man of probably 19 or 20.
- 3. Because Joseph was a just (righteous) man, who lived according to the holy precepts of God's Law, he knew the child Mary was carrying was not his—*they had not been together intimately*.
  - Before they came together as man and wife, Mary was discovered to be pregnant.
  - Needless to say, this discovery was a shock to Joseph.
  - Joseph did not yet know what verse 18 tells us—*that the child was of God the Holy Spirit*.

## 2. THE JUST AND MERCIFUL JOSEPH TESTED (v. 19).

### Matthew 1:19

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. *NKJV*

1. Joseph was a righteous man—*he lived by the Laws of God, not the opinions of men*.
2. Joseph deliberately purposed in his heart to divorce Mary privately.
  - Mary and Joseph had never had sexual intercourse when Mary was found to be pregnant, and Mary herself had been faithful (vv. 20, 23).
  - Little is said about Joseph, but one can imagine how his heart must have broken. He genuinely loved Mary, and yet the word came that she was pregnant.
  - His love for her was demonstrated by his actions. He chose not to create a public scandal by exposing her condition to the judges at the city gate. Such an act could have resulted in Mary's death by stoning (**Deut 22:23-24**). Instead he decided to divorce her quietly.
3. No doubt he was confused and broken as to how such a thing could have happened, and why Mary would have been unfaithful.
  - **But Joseph was about to get another surprise.**

## 3. THE ANGEL OF THE LORD SPOKE TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM (v. 20).

### Matthew 1:20

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. *NKJV*

1. While Joseph was deliberating on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared to him.
  - Joseph wasn't trying to put it out of his mind by thinking about other things.
  - He was thinking on these things (contemplating, pondering, considering).
2. It was in a dream that the angel appeared to him.
  - In Bible terminology, a **dream** is usually received while sleeping, and a **vision** is usually received while awake.
  - The fact that Joseph was apparently sleeping when the angel came to him in a dream shows that Joseph had faith and a measure of peace, even in the midst of what was a storm in his life.

- Notice that the angel refers to Joseph as **son of David**—*Joseph was a legal heir of the House and lineage of King David.*
3. The angel tells Joseph **not to become afraid** to take Mary to be his wife because her pregnancy was of the Holy Spirit.
    - Surely Joseph needed God's help if any man ever did.
    - If Jesus was really God's Son, Joseph was entitled to know this supreme fact that he might be just to both Mary and her Child.
    - Joseph is called "Son of David" by the angel.
    - Literally the is angel said, “Do no become afraid to take Mary alongside of you to be your wife.
    - Joseph had pondered and planned as best he knew, but now God had called a halt and he had to decide whether he was willing to shelter Mary by marrying her and, if necessary, take upon himself whatever stigma might attach to her.
      - That stigma has lasted for about 2,000 years now.
      - Some allege that Mary had sex with a Roman soldier, willingly or unwillingly.
      - But wasn't God able to protect Mary as He had protected Sarah 2,000 years earlier?
      - Remember, the religious leaders took a verbal slap at Jesus in John 8:41, when they said, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father -- God."
    - Joseph was told that the child was conceived of the Holy Spirit and thus that Mary was innocent of any sin.
      - But who would believe it now? Mary knew the truth and had not told him because she could not expect him to understand or believe it.
      - Would you have believed it without a visitation from the Lord or one of His angels?

#### **4. THE ANGEL TOLD JOSPEH WHAT TO NAME THE CHILD & WHY (v. 21).**

##### **Matthew 1:21**

21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." *NKJV*

1. Jesus—the *Christ, the Messiah*—was named before He was born.
  - One scholar writes that Jesus is one of only a handful of people in the Bible named before they were born.
2. Although it was Mary who would bring forth this child with no biological contribution from Joseph, Joseph still had a part to play in this event.
  - Joseph was to be the protector & provider for Mary & Jesus—just like any other man with a family, but this was the family of the Messiah of Israel.
  - Joseph was rearing a Son that was his wife's, but not his.
3. The angel told Joseph, “**You shall call His name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.**”
  - The name Jesus comes from the Greek name Ἰησοῦς *lēsous*. It means **YHWH is salvation**.
  - This name in the Hebrew Bible (the OT) is יהושע *yehōshua'* and is translated Joshua or Jehoshua. This name also means **YHWH is salvation** or **YHWH Delivers**.

- The name of this child was also His **mission** and His **purpose**—*to seek and to save the lost, starting with the lost sheep of the House of Israel.*
- **Hebrews 12:2** says, “Looking unto Jesus, the **author** and **finisher** of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” *NKJV*
  - Jesus is the **Beginner** and the **Completer** of our faith.
- **Hebrews 3:1-2** says,
  - 1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the **Apostle** and **High Priest** of our confession, Christ Jesus,
  - 2 who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. *NKJV*

## 5. THE CHILD IS MORE THAN A MAN—HE IS THE GOD-MAN (v. 22-23).

### Matthew 1:22-23

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." *NKJV*

1. All of this was done **in order to** fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet Isaiah.
  - Verse 23 is a quotation from **Isaiah 7:14**.
2. The words used for **virgin** in the OT & NT mean just that—*a virgin*.
  - The Hebrew word עַלְמָה 'almah refers to **a young woman of marriageable age who has never had sexual intercourse**.
  - The Greek word παρθένος parthenos also refers to **a virgin of marriageable age**.
3. They shall call His name Immanuel.
  - Interestingly, the Hebrew text of **Isaiah 7:14** says, “The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and she shall call His name Immanuel.”
  - **Immanuel** clearly means **God with us**.
  - They who? All the people.
    - To say **they shall call His name** is an idiomatic way to say *He shall be called....*
  - To call this Son Immanuel meant that God was going to be with His people in a different way than they had even known before.
  - It also confirms that He is with His disciples at all times.
  - After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and in us.

## 6. THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE ANGEL ARE CARRIED OUT (v. 24-25).

### Matthew 1:24-25

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS. *NKJV*

1. When Joseph arose from sleeping, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him—*he obeyed the message the Lord sent to him*.
  - We cannot pick & choose which of God’s instructions we will obey—*selective obedience is not obedience at all*.

2. Joseph took his wife home.
  - Literally, he received his wife alongside himself.
3. However, Joseph did not know her until the baby was born.
  - After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary had a normal husband & wife relationship.
  - Jesus was not Mary's only child—*He was her firstborn child.*
  - **Mary is not a perpetual virgin**—Joseph knew her after Jesus was born.
  - **One man who is a former Roman Catholic said that if Mary was a perpetual virgin as the Roman Church teaches, he could explain why Joseph is no where to be found in the crucifixion narratives—HE DIED OF FRUSTRATION.**
4. Joseph called the name of Mary's Son Jesus, according the instructions the Lord had given through the angel.
  - Joseph showed that he was an upright man in a most difficult situation.

## 7. THIS SAME JESUS IS COMING BACK TO EARTH.

1. Acts 1:11 says, "This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." *NKJV*
  - But He isn't returning as a harmless, helpless baby in a feeding trough.
2. Jesus is returning for those who are His before His judgment is poured out on this world.
  - When He returns in the air to catch away His Church, we will forever be with the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
  - For those who reject Him, he will appear as their Judge.
3. Jesus Christ is returning as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

### **Revelation 19:11-16**

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. *NKJV*

- **When Jesus returns, will it be as your Savior, or as your Judge?**

CONCLUSION: The name of Jesus is Salvation, Deliverance.

- Is that salvation a reality for you?
- Or is it wishful, hopeful thinking?
- Make that salvation a settled certainty with the Lord today.
- *This Christmas season will take on a whole new life and meaning.*