



## 2: Give Him the Name...JESUS (Matthew 1:18-25)

On this Christmas Sunday we discover how the name of the Newborn King shows the reason why He was born to a woman, lived as a human, and died like a villain.

**beourguest**

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VISUAL NOTES

### The Christmas Story

#### Matthew 1:18 (NIV)

This is how the birth of **Jesus the Messiah** came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph but before they came together, she was found to be **pregnant through the Holy Spirit**.

**Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph.** According to Jewish culture at the time,

- Parents arranged the marriage when the children were young,
- The betrothal period was a legally binding contract, where the man was given legal rights over the young woman, gifts were exchanged (bride price, dowry, and bridegroom's gift to the bride). The terms "husband" and "wife" were used to refer to these pledged partners. If one died during this period the other would be considered a widow or widower.<sup>1</sup>
- Sexual purity was still expected. Sexual activity with anyone else would have been considered adultery while the ultimate punishment could be stoning (Lev 20:10; Deut 22:23-24), although during the time of Jesus adulterers were more often publicly disgraced.

Right after Mary was told of her pregnancy by an angel, she goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth for 3 months.

**Luke 1:56** (NIV) Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Now Mary returns to Nazareth with a baby bump and this is not okay with Joseph.

Virgin birth sounds crazy, and it's an unbelievable claim for most people in our culture too.

**Christians** believe in the virgin birth of Jesus.

**Atheists** believe in the virgin birth of the universe.

Choose your **miracle**.

—@GlenScrivener

The God of the universe, who created everything out of nothing, created people from the microscopic parts of their parents, **CHOSE** to use the DNA of a woman named Mary, but no human male DNA. Instead, she became **pregnant through the Holy Spirit**.

Of course, since this had never happened in the history of the world, this explanation would have been impossible for any engaged man to believe.

**TAKE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE**

<sup>1</sup> Michael J. Wilkins, Matthew, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2004), 73-74.

## Joseph's Intent & God's Response

**Matthew 1:19-21** (NIV) Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet 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, 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.**"

The name **JESUS** or in **Hebrew...Yeshua** = *Yahweh saves* (more than His Name - it's why He came, and it's WHO He is!) Matthew wants his audience to know why the King had come and why He was given the name **Jesus** (*Yeshua*)...

## **BIG TRUTH: Sinners need a Savior**

- If it weren't for the *cross* we wouldn't celebrate the *manger*. If it weren't for Jesus' *death*, we wouldn't have even known or cared about his *birth*.

The earliest followers of Jesus didn't focus on His birth. There is no biblical record that the early Christians celebrating Christmas. Only 2 of the 4 gospel writers even tell the story of His birth - Matthew & Luke for a total of only 40 verses.

- **Matthew:** 8 verses (Mt 1:18-25)
- **Luke:** 32 verses of Luke (Lk 1:26-37; 2:1-20)

✓ The major focus of the New Testament is NOT on the birth of Jesus, but **on the death of Jesus**, because *sinners need a Savior*.

## 700 Year Old Prophecy Fulfilled

**Matthew 1:22-23** (NIV) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

This is a quote from **Isaiah 7:14**, written 700 years before the birth of Jesus. Note: Matthew believes **the Lord** spoke **through the prophet** Isaiah.

- Jesus wasn't called "Immanuel", but Jesus **WAS Immanuel** - "God with us"!

## Joseph's Obedience

**Matthew 1:24-25** (NIV) When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And **he gave him the name Jesus.**

Matthew certainly does not teach that Mary was a virgin forever (contrary to Catholic tradition). Jesus did have other brothers (Mt 12:46; 13:55). Joseph showed self-control by not being intimate with his own wife, until after Jesus was born.

**Joseph gave him the name Jesus - Yeshua - Yahweh saves!**

## **Sinners need a Savior**

☀ Roy Lessin:

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But **our greatest need was forgiveness**, so **God sent us a Savior.**

Jesus was born because...

## **Sinners need a Savior**



- Step Outside and thank the God who Created you & stepped into creation to save you from your sins.
- Join us next week as we continue our study through Matthew 2. Feel free to read it this week!

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives:** Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).