## An Angel's View of Christmas

Part Two: Matthew 1:18–25

What Angels Come to Do

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#### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

#### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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Luke 2:14 : "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

**Revelation 5:11–12** : <sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

- 1. Worshippers (Luke 2:14; Revelation 5:11–12)
- 2. Examples (Matthew 6:10)

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Matthew 6:10: <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.



- 1. Worshippers (Luke 2:14; Revelation 5:11–12)
- 2. Examples (Matthew 6:10)
- 3. Protectors (Psalm 91:11-12; Acts 5:19-20)

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**Psalm 91:11–12 :** <sup>1</sup> For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. <sup>12</sup> On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

Acts 5:19–20 : <sup>19</sup> But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, <sup>20</sup> "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

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- 2. Examples (Matthew 6:10)
- **3.** Protectors (Psalm 91:11–12; Acts 5:19–20)
- 4. God's Agents (Hebrews 1:14; Acts 12:21–23)

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Hebrews 1:14 : <sup>14</sup> Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Acts 12:21–23 : <sup>21</sup> On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. <sup>22</sup> And the people were shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a man!" <sup>23</sup> Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last.

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"When Quirinius was governor of Syria, in a town called Bethlehem, a child was born who, beyond the power of anyone to account for, was the high and lofty One made low and helpless. The One whom none can look upon and live is delivered in a stable under the soft, indifferent gaze of cattle. The Father of all mercies puts himself at our mercy. Year after year the ancient tale of what happened is told raw, preposterous, holy and year after year the world in some measure stops to listen."

#### Frederick Buechner

...The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. A dream as old as time. If it is true, it is the chief of all truths. If it is not true, it is of all truths the one that people would most have be true if they could make it so.

Frederick Buechner