



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

MATTHEW 1:18-25

LESSON: THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (CHRISTMAS)

— December 23, 2018

INTRODUCTION / SYNOPSIS:

1:12-17 Joseph's line

Matthew had been a Jewish tax collector who became one of Jesus' disciples. He wrote especially to the Jews. He began his account by giving Jesus' genealogy to prove Jesus was a descendant of both King David and Abraham, just as the Old Testament had predicted. This would mean that Joseph's firstborn son would have the right to sit on David's throne. But, according to Jeremiah 22:30 God had cursed Jeconiah's bloodline which was apart of David's royal line. God didn't even want his (Jeconiah) children's names to be written down. But God, you see, the gospel of Luke also gives us Jesus' genealogy, but not through His legal line, but Luke tells us of Jesus' biological bloodline, which He had through His mother Mary. And Mary's line also descends through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah ((Lk.3:33-34), through Jesse to David. Mary's heritage did not extend through the kingly line of Solomon. Instead, she was a descendant of David's son Nathan. Joseph's lineage is traced back to King David. Joseph was the son of Heli by marriage. Heli didn't have children and he died childless. Jacob and Heli became brothers through the Levitra marriage. Heli's widow became the wife of Jacob, of the tribe of Solomon, and Joseph became the offspring of the marriage. Thus, according to Jewish Law, Jesus could legally inherit the throne, for He was heir through Joseph to the royal line of descent, while completely avoiding the blood curse on Jeconiah's line! Both Joseph and Mary were descendants of King David and of Abraham. Luke 3:23 shows that Jesus was the son of Joseph through marriage to Mary. Matthew 1:16 shows Jacob was Joseph's father. Joseph was Mary's husband, and she gave birth to Jesus who is called the Christ. Joseph was still in the royal line of David. Jesus still had all legal rights to Joseph's lineage,

Jesus did not have the blood of that line, for He was born of a virgin, conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit! Does this mean that Jesus is not truly the branch of Jesse, and the root of David? No! But wait: It is apparent that from eternity past, God had the whole thing worked out. It was foretold by the prophet Isaiah of the Messiah in Isaiah 11 of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ accepted the title of messiah on three different occasions (Matt.16:13-17; Mk.14:61-62; Jh.4:25-26). He is called the Son of man, the Christ, and God's very own Son. He is identified as:

- Prophet (Deut.18:15-19)
- Priest (Ps.110:4)
- King (2Sam.7:12-13)

They were always anointed with oil, a symbol of the Holy Spirit who was to perfectly anoint the Christ, the Messiah (Matt.3:16; Mk.1:10-11; Lk.3:21-22; Jh.1:32-33).

LESSON: I. JOSEPH'S QUANDARY MATTHEW 1:18-19

Betrothed

1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, — Mary and Joseph were betrothed. The betrothal is a promise

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of marriage, sort of like being engaged in modern society. However, the bond of the promise made was much stronger than a simple engagement. During the time of betrothal, although the couple is not joined physically, they are bound by a marriage covenant. To break the engagement would require a decree of divorce. There are three steps involved in a Jewish marriage:

- The engagement: the parents usually determine who a child was to marry—often at a very early age.
- The betrothal: at a determined time the couple agrees with the engagement. If they followed through, the betrothal was immediately binding. To get out of the marriage would require a legal divorce.
- The betrothal lasted one year. When Joseph discovered Mary's pregnancy, they were already betrothed to one another.
- The marriage: the consummation of the couple took place. It should be noted that in Joseph's case consummation did not occur until after Jesus' birth.

Before They Came Together

There was no physical intimacy in their betrothal. At this point in their relationship, she was found to be with child -pregnant. But she had not committed the sin of adultery or had relations with any man. The adultery law said that a betrothed virgin who committed adultery was to be stoned to death (Deut.22:21-24). But, she was with child.

With Child By The Holy Spirit

1:18b ...she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Mary was with child by the Holy Spirit before they were united in marriage. What does it mean "*to be with child by the Holy Spirit?*" The gospel of Luke explains that the angel Gabriel told Mary: Luke 1:31 "...you will conceive in your womb and bear a son..." When Mary inquired as to how this would happen, since she was a virgin, Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.*" Mary, a virgin who had not been with any man, became pregnant. This pregnancy was a supernatural act by the power of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit. This pregnancy might have begun supernaturally by the Holy Spirit, but it progressed normally as all others do biologically. It was not too many weeks after this that her pregnancy became known. You can only imagine Joseph's reaction to this, for he knew the baby wasn't his.

Joseph A Righteous Man

1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. Joseph was a righteous man. And righteousness is God's perfect balance of justice and mercy. Justice said that divorce was the thing to do - break the vow of betrothal. But justice also said that if a man find that the woman he is to marry is found not to be a virgin, Deut. 22:21 "*Then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death...*" That is justice. But being a righteous man meant Joseph was also merciful. He knew he couldn't marry her, but also wanted to show mercy. And so, rather than a public stoning, Joseph would quietly divorce her and send her away somewhere.

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II. THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE MATTHEW 1:20-23

An Angel In A Dream

1:20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. Without supernatural intervention, Joseph would not have wed Mary. An angel appeared to him in a dream and reassured him that Mary was still a virgin, and that the wedding should still take place. Both Joseph and Mary had to deal with decisions! How they handled them, took faith! Joseph chose to show MERCY. Mary chose TRUST! We choose Christ!

Call His Name Jesus

1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. Joseph was not excluded from the parenting of God's Son. The angel told Joseph that the child was God's, and shall call His name JESUS! Call His name: "YAH-weh which means salvation." He was to give the child a certain name. Jewish boys would get their names when they were eight days old, on the day of their circumcision (*See Luke 2:21*). Because it is HE who will save HIS people from their sins, YAH-weh - God Himself - The child is in Mary's womb. The Bible says in 1Tim. 1:15 "...Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Call His Name Immanuel

1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,— In keeping with Matthew's mission, he will continually point out in his gospel how Jesus was fulfilling Old Testament prophesy. And Matthew reminds his readers that this was prophesied long ago in the book of Isaiah.

1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. The Lord told King Ahaz, Is. 7:14 "...the Lord Himself will give you a sign." This is the sign Isaiah gives "...Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel", which corresponds with this verse. This miracle child's name would be called "Emmanuel", meaning, "God with us." This child born of a virgin is God with us. Jesus Christ is shown to be God.

III. JOSEPH'S OBEDIENCE MATTHEW 1:24-25

Kept Her A Virgin Until

1:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:— After Joseph had awoken from his sleep, he did what the angel had told him to do. Mary and Joseph did get married.

1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. It was not before, but after Jesus was born, that Mary and Joseph had normal marital relations and built their family. He brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS. We will discover in chapter thirteen, that Mary and Joseph later had other children, who would be Jesus'

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half brothers and sisters.

He Called His Name Jesus

When the baby was eight days old, He was taken to the temple, circumcised, and given the name Jesus. This name would one day be the focus of the world. The Bible tells us that:

- we call on the name of Jesus (1Cor. 1:2),
- we assemble in the name of Jesus (1Cor. 5:4),
- we were justified in the name of Jesus (1Cor. 6:11), and...
- Phil. 2:10 ...at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW...
- 1 John 3:23, this is His commandment: that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY:

Matthew gives us the birth of Jesus Christ. Mary was already promised to Joseph before they came together. Mary was found pregnant by the Holy Ghost and Joseph was not the father! Joseph being a just man did not want to publicly divorce her, but to do it quietly (1:18-19).

While Joseph had contemplated these things that had happened, an angel appeared to him in a dream to let him know that it's alright to take Mary as his wife, and the child she had conceived within her is by the Holy Ghost and not by man. Joseph chose to show MERCY. Mary chose TRUST! We choose Christ! God had blessed the child in Mary's womb, and this child, the son would be named **Jesus**, the Savior of the people for He will be the One to save them from their sins. This child born of a virgin they "*shall call his name Immanuel, God with us.*" This was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah in the book of Isaiah saying Behold, a virgin... (*as in the above verse*) (1:20-23).

Joseph now wakes from his sleep, and did what the angel told him to do. He took Mary as his wife. She remained a virgin until her son was born and Joseph named him **Jesus** (1:24-25).