



THE BIRTH OF CHRIST FROM MATTHEW 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, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

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.

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.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. "

- There was a year of preparation.
- The groom prepared a home to live in. The bride prepared her wardrobe.
- At the end of the year, the groom and his friends would "surprise" the bride and the wedding festivities would begin.
- The bride did not know the exact time of the groom's return.

3. Before they came together.

This means "before they slept together" as man and wife and had physical relations.

4. Put her away

This means to "divorce" her.

5. Put her away Privately

This means he would not have Mary stoned to death for having sex before marriage.

6. The angel of the Lord.

Angels were created to minister to the heirs or salvation. Angels always appear as men.

7. His Name shall be called Jesus.

8. He shall save his people from their sins.

Jesus came to die for the sins of the whole world. The Gospel was first preached to the Jews (His own in John 1), and later to the Gentiles.

IMPORTANT WORDS AND PHRASES

1. "On this wise "
2. "Espoused"
3. "Before they came together"
4. "Put here away "
5. "Privately"
6. "The angel of the Lord"
7. "Shall name Him Jesus."
8. "He will save His people from their sins."

DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATION

1. On this wise

This is King James for "it happened this way."

2. Espoused

Espousal was more than an engagement. This was a binding "contract."

SUMMARY

Mary and Joseph made the contract. During that waiting period, Mary got pregnant. Joseph knew the baby was not his and he was upset. He didn't want Mary killed, so he decided to

simply call of the contract. The angel of the Lord told Joseph what was going on and Joseph believed him, although it was difficult.

THE VIRGIN BIRTH

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

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.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

1. The birth of Jesus fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophets. The old Testament is filled with 300 + predictions about the coming of Jesus.

2. Isaiah predicted that a virgin would give birth to a son. If Jesus is not the virgin born Son of God, then he cannot be our Savior.

3. "Knew her not" means that Joseph and Mary had no sexual relations.

4. "Until she brought forth her first-born Son," means that after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had a normal relationship and had other children.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

1. What do you REALLY believe about Jesus?

Was Jesus an illegitimate child? Was Jesus the natural son of Joseph and Mary? Was Jesus the virgin-born Son of God? The Pharisees said: "We are not born of fornication." There was gossip circulating among the Jews about Mary

getting pregnant by a Roman soldier named Pantera. What do you say?

2. WHY is the Virgin Birth Important?

If Jesus not born of a virgin He could not be our Savior. If Jesus was the natural son of Mary and Joseph he cannot reign as King over all the earth. Both Mary and Joseph are in the royal family line of King David. But there was a curse placed on Joseph's line and none of those heirs could reign.

3. (Roman Catholic doctrine) Did Mary REMAIN A VIRGIN?

No! Mary and Joseph had a normal husband and wife relationship after Jesus was born. She did not remain a virgin. Jesus had brothers and sisters. Roman Catholics say that these were Joseph's children from a former marriage. Jesus was Mary's first-born son, not her only son. There were other children born after Jesus. "Perpetual Virginity" is not sound doctrine. It is not taught in the Bible. Neither do we have to pray through Mary. We go straight to Jesus. Mary has not more influence on Jesus than you do.

4. DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "ESPOUSED" TO CHRIST?

This is a beautiful illustration of the relationship between Christ and His church.

Believers are said to be "espoused" to Christ (II Corinthians 11:2)

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. "



Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us (John 14:1-6). While Jesus is gone to prepare preparing a place for us in heaven, we (the church) are supposed to be to preparing our wardrobe for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Revelation 19:7-8

7. "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that 8. The white linen were are dressed in when we return with Christ (Revelation 19) is made up of "the righteous acts of the saints."



Jesus is coming back soon to receive us and we will have what is known as the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This is the marriage of Christ and His Church.

The church, you know is the Bride of Christ. We are espoused now, but we will see Him face to face then.



The good works we do in Jesus' Name will be used as material to make up the clothes we wear to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. This will take place when Christ returns. Read

about this in Revelation 19.



During the time we are waiting for Christ to return, let's not forget that we are "espoused" to Him. Let us be faithful and wait patiently for His return. Are you doing anything for Christ that really matters? May I make a

suggestion?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

I have prepared a list of things the Lord Jesus has specifically told us to do while He is gone.

These things are recorded in Romans 12:9-

21./ they were found in our daily Bible reading for last week in the Daily Bread.

Keep this list with you for the rest of this month. Each time you have the opportunity to put any of these things into practice, date it and briefly describe the incident. These notes will make interesting discussions as we study the Bible together and share our experiences.

ROMANS 12:9-21

1. (9a) Don't just pretend you love others: really love them.
2. (9b) Hate what is wrong. Stand on the side of the good.
- 3.(10) Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other.
4. (11) Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically.
5. (12a) Be glad for all God is planning for you. Discover some of His promises. Remember! God's blessings come to those who obey Him.
6. (12b) Be patient in trouble and pray all the time.
7. (13a) When God's children are in need, you be the one who helps them out.
8. (13b) Get into the habit of having guests over for dinner. If they need lodging, provide a place for them to spend the night.
9. (14) If someone mistreats you because you are a Christian, don't curse them; Pray that God will bless them.
10. (15) When people are happy, be happy with them. When they are sad, share their sorrow.

11. (16a) Work happily together.
12. (16b) Don't try to act like a "big-shot."
13. (16c) Don't try to get into the good graces (or "butter up") of important people, but learn to enjoy the company of ordinary people.
14. (16d) Don't think you "know it all."
15. (17a) Never pay back evil for evil.
16. (17b) Do everything in such a way that people see that you are honest clear through (transparent).
17. (18) Don't quarrel with anyone but try hard to be at peace with everyone if you can.
18. (19) Never avenge yourselves (or try to "get even") or take the law into your own hands. Leave that to God. God said He would take care of that. He has promised that He will punish those who deserve it.
19. (20) If your enemy is hungry, give him something to eat. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. This will make him ashamed of how he has treated you.
20. (21) Don't ever let evil get the upper hand but conquer (overcome) evil with good.

THE WEDDING COULD TAKE PLACE AT ANY TIME. IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE PLAN TO WEAR

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