

MATTHEW 1:19 - 2:6

A. Matthew 1:19 - Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

1. Joseph, no doubt, was **shocked** when finding out Mary is pregnant. Ordinarily this could have been a catastrophe. If Joseph denied having intercourse with his promised wife, she would have been tried (all the family embarrassed) and sentenced to death by **stoning**.

Deuteronomy 22:21 - Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel, to play the whore in her father's house: so shalt thou put evil away from among you.

2. Joseph loved Mary too much to have her stoned and make her be humiliated publically. Joseph, being a just man, could not condone her law-breaking crime. So, he considered giving her a paper of **divorcement** privately.

Deuteronomy 24:1 - When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give *it* in her hand, and send her out of his house.

B. 1. It must have been a troubling night for Joseph thinking that Mary, the one he **loved** so much, had

Matthew 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.

been **unfaithful**. Had he been betrayed?

2. As Joseph contemplated the situation, the angel of the Lord appeared to explain the **truth** of what was really going on. The angel told Joseph to stay with Mary, because Mary had been faithful to him. Her pregnancy was a miraculous **conception** that God the Holy Spirit did. Mary was still a **virgin** and no human had touched her (this allowed no sin to pass on to Christ).

****Question?** Why was it so important for Joseph to go on and marry Mary?

Answer:

a. Joseph **truly loved** Mary.

b. If Mary did not have a husband, then Jesus would not have a step-father. Christ would have been **denied** citizenship in the nation.

Deuteronomy 23:2 - A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

C. 1. The name Jesus means Jehovah Savior. In the Greek, His name is the same as Joshua in the O.T. Both mean Jehovah Savior.

Matthew 1:21 - And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

****Jesus is His name; Christ is His title; and Lord is His position.**

2. [for he shall **save his people** from their sins.]

- a. Luke 1:30-33 - And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.
- b. The context shows these are God's people (Jewish) who are to be saved. Their hope in salvation was to be delivered from their **sins**, a physical deliverance from the oppression of their enemies, and then to go into the **Kingdom**.

Luke 1:68-69, 73-74 - Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, Luke 1:69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; Luke 1:73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, Luke 1:74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,

Acts 3:19-20, 25-26 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

- c. Israel's religious leaders and most in Israel wanted physical deliverance from her enemies, but not the spiritual forgiveness needed. Without that, they **never** could experience the promised kingdom.
 - (1) **This is why Christ said "Ye must be born again" and "But seek ye first the kingdom of God...and all these things shall be added unto you".
 - (2) Israel will get physical and spiritual deliverance at the **end** of the tribulation, when Christ returns to earth and the **New** Covenant starts as they go into the kingdom.

D.

1. O.T. prophecy is dealing with Israel. So in prophecy, God's desire is to be in the **midst** of His re-

Matthew 1:22-23 - Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Matt. 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.

deemed people.

Examples:

Jeremiah 31:31, 33 - Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Jer. 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Ezekiel 36:27-28 - And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Eze. 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

2. [that it might be fulfilled] Again, prophecy was to Israel and Matthew is telling his nation that Jesus, the virgin born God-man is the fulfillment of **Scripture!**

Isaiah 7:14 - Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Jeremiah 31:22 - How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man.

3. [Emmanuel, ...God with us] No longer was God just a Deity in the sky, but now He had descended to earth in the form of a baby. We wonder at times if Joseph realized the implications of what was taking place? We know that Matthew was thrilled to be writing of the privilege he had to have walked and talked with God - Christ - Messiah. (John 1:1, 14)

E.

Matthew 1:24-25 - Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: Matt. 1:25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

1. Let's give Joseph praise for having character and for his obedience to God. Joseph takes Mary as his wife. Two names, no doubt, filled his thoughts - "Jesus" and "Emmanuel".
2. Notice three simple facts:
 - a. Joseph's compliance - he did as the angel had commanded
 - b. Joseph's consecration - he remained celibate until after Jesus was born
 - c. Joseph's cooperation - "and he called His name Jesus"

**Much is said about Mary (rightly so), but often not much praise for Joseph. Joseph was a good man. How many other men would have accepted this situation, followed the angel's words, maintain the physical restraints, and even flee with Mary to Egypt? This demonstrated he indeed was God's man.
3. In verse 25, it says "her firstborn son". This signified that Mary and Joseph would have other children of their own.
 - a. **This verse destroys the false idea of the perpetual virginity of Mary. Mary would have at least 4 more sons and 2 daughters with Joseph.

Mark 6:3 - Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

b. Compare:

John 2:17 - And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Psalm 69:9 - For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Note: Psalm 69:8 - [I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.] *This is a reference about Jesus.

F.

Matthew 2:1- Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

1. Being born in Bethlehem is a prophecy fulfilled, once again showing the Word of God is always absolutely **correct**.

Micah 5:2 - But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

*The following verses show the coming of the King and the **re**ception He receives.

2. [came wise men from the east] Context: These are events that happened **after** the nativity.
 - a. Now Jesus is a little child, at least **2** years old (not a babe).
 - b. Now Mary and Joseph are living in a **house**, not in a manger.
 - c. There is **no** indication that these wise men were at Christ's birth.
3. An historic fact of II Kings 15:30 & 17:1-6 is that the Assyrians took the Northern Israel's **10** tribes into captivity 700 years prior to Christ's birth.
 - a. Then in 586 B.C., Israel's Southern Kingdom - Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar. The first time included **Daniel**, then the siege was completed in a second attack (II Kings 24:1, 11-16).
 - b. In these two captivities, Israel's enemies took the choicest, **most** brilliant, and desirable of men, women and youth. These captives were then scattered throughout the Babylonian-Assyrian empires.
 - c. Many of these captive Jews were devout believers who followed the laws of Moses. Among these men, some were **super**naturally elevated to positions of authority.
Example: Daniel rose to vice-regent under Nebuchadnezzar.
Daniel 2:18, 47-48 - That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. Dan. 2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret. Dan. 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.
 - d. Remember Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3?
*There were many obedient believers. In captivity, only as the Jews could do, many became **prosperous**. Two groups later returned to build Jerusalem's **walls** and temple.
 - e. Most believing Jews knew Daniel's prophecy - that from Cyrus' command to rebuild the temple and walls and Messiah's coming would be a span of **483** years.

Daniel 9:24-26 - Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Dan. 9:25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. Dan. 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

****As it drew near, the religious Jews were watching for Messiah's star.**

Numbers 24:17 - I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

- f. I don't think these wise men were astrologers, magicians or sorcerers. They were devout **godly** Jews who studied the scriptures and that gave them wisdom, knowledge, and insight. They had seen the star from the East where they lived. So here they make it to Israel-Jerusalem to **worship** the child-King.

G.

Matthew 2:2 - Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

1. Their **first** question in the N.T. is "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" The **first** question in the O.T. is "Adam... Where art thou?"

****Now here, it is the question about the 2nd Adam!**

2. There were people in Israel who were looking for the Messiah-Redeemer to come.

a. Simeon - Luke 2:25-26 - [And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost *was* upon him. Luke 2:26 And it *was* revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.]

b. Anna - Luke 2:36-38 - [And there *was* one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she *was* of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; Luke 2:37 And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. Luke 2:38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.]

c. People - Luke 3:15 - [And as the people *were* in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he *were* the Christ, or not;]

****Evidently these Jewish people knew what the Bible taught. So it is not actually strange for these "wise men" to come looking, and understanding the time to be looking, for Messiah.**

3. Upon arriving, they then ask "Where is he that is born King of the Jews." These wise men assumed that most of Jerusalem **would** know of this promised-propheesied event. They had come to worship Him.

H. *Israel's response of lies and deceit come from King Herod and the **religious** rulers. They actually cared

Matthew 2:3 - When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

little about Messiah's coming, but only to keep their own power and continued greed.

I.

Matthew 2:4-6 - And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. Matt. 2:5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, Matt. 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

1. Isn't it interesting that they had the answer to where Messiah would be born, but they had **more** concern for their standing with King Herod?

King Herod was wicked, cruel, mean, vicious, prideful, jealous, **derangd and a murderer!
 2. Herod had two wives, killed his favorite wife, his mother-in-law & her grandmother, and three of his own sons. Yet the people, knowing scripture, still stood with Herod - perhaps out of **fear**. All of Jerusalem were shook up as these wise men arrived.
 - a. **They were fast to quote, or **mis**quote, a Bible verse. They lied because they knew where Christ came from scripturally. They just didn't want to admit **Who** He was. They had position, plenty, and power over most of Israel under Herod. They just did not want anyone (**even** Messiah) to threaten that.
 - b. To get a better look at these religious leaders, note what Christ said in Matthew 15:7-9 - [*Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, Matt. 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. Matt. 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.]*
 - c. They, when quoting Micah 5:2, changed it to say: "out of thee shall come a Governor", instead of, "Bethlehem...yet out of thee shall he come forth". Who is "he"? "...whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting". It is **Christ**!
- *They leave this last part **out** completely!