

Second Edition



— INTERNATIONAL —
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29. Jesus' Birth

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 1

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But 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. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Study Questions: Jesus' Birth

Matthew 1:18-25

Introduction:

The birth of Jesus Christ took place in Israel after the events in the Old Testament, followed by 400 years of silence from God. During Old Testament times, God had said through his prophets that He would send the Messiah. Now the time of waiting for Him was over. This “promised one” of Israel was Jesus Christ, son of God and son of man. The name Jesus was chosen by God because it means Savior, and God had sent Him to be the Savior of the whole world.

Goals:

Knowledge

- To learn that Jesus is both God and Man.
- To understand that God planned for Jesus since before time began.
- To see the Trinity begin to be revealed.
- To realize the power of the Holy Spirit.

Attitude

- To trust in the Lord God who saves us.
- To be confident, not fearful because God is with us.
- To be submissive to the Lord because He is God.

Actions

- To listen to the Lord's instructions.
- To obey the Lord, even when it does not make sense to us to do what He asks us to do.

Memory Verses:

Hebrews 1:1-2 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom He made the universe.”

Scriptures for Further Study:

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-6; Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3

Questions about the Story:

1. How did Mary become pregnant when she was a virgin? (Matthew 1:18, 20. By the power of the Holy Spirit.)
2. Since Jesus was born of Mary, as a virgin, through the Holy Spirit, what does that make Him? (Matthew 1:21, 23. Son of

Man and Son of God. 1 Peter 2:21-25; Hebrews 4:14-15; Luke 1:26-38. Note especially Luke 1:35)

3. What do we know about Joseph from this text? (Matthew 1:19-20. Joseph was a righteous man. This means Joseph believed the promises of God regarding the Messiah and was righteous by faith. He considered his options on how to proceed, and decided that he would divorce Mary quietly, so that she would not be publicly disgraced.)
4. What can we learn from the angel's appearance to Joseph? (Matthew 1:20. An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel instructed Joseph to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife, that the child was from the Holy Spirit, the child was a son, the child had the name Jesus and that Jesus had a purpose.)
5. What does it mean that Jesus will "save His people from their sins?" (Matthew 1:21. It means that they were sinful, they could not save themselves, and He alone could help them.)
6. How do we know that the birth of Jesus fit God's plan? (Matthew 1:22. All of it took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets. Isaiah 9:2-7)
7. What other name was Jesus to be called and what does it mean? (Matthew 1:23. He was to be called Immanuel, which means, "God with us.")
8. What did Joseph do when he woke up? (Matthew 1:24. He did what the angel had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.)
9. What was Joseph's relationship to Mary before Jesus was born? (Matthew 1:24-25. He took her home as his wife, but had no union with her until after Jesus was born.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Are we looking for the Holy Spirit to do miraculous things in our lives, like he did in Mary's life? (Matthew 1:18, 23)
2. What difference does it make to us that Jesus was both God and Man? (Matthew 1:21, 23) [He is able to relate to us. As perfect man, He is our substitute in His life and in His death. As God, His death is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.]
3. What does a righteous life look like? (Matthew 1:19) [Joseph was righteous by faith in the promises of God. As a result, we see that he listened to the Lord, he wanted to do God's will and he believed God at His word.]
4. How should we make decisions in life? (Matthew 1:20) [Like Joseph, we trust in God and our Savior. We also listen to

God's Word and seek to honor Him with our lives so that He is glorified.]

5. How does the Lord speak to you? (Matthew 1:20) [The Lord speaks to us by His Word.]
6. Why don't we need to be afraid of things that happen in our life? (Matthew 1:20) [We don't need to be afraid because God is with us.]
7. What does Jesus save you from? How? (Matthew 1:21) [Jesus saves us from the wrath of God due to us because of our sin. He is the perfect and holy sacrifice that pays our debt to God for our sin.]
8. What was known about Jesus before He was even born? What is His purpose? (Matthew 1:21) [It was prophesied that Jesus would save His people from their sins.]
9. Discuss the meaning of Jesus' three names (Jesus, Christ, Immanuel). [The name Jesus means Savior, one who would save His people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21). Christ means Anointed One, Messiah (Luke 4:18). Immanuel means God is with us (Matthew 1:23).]
10. Why can we find comfort in God's faithfulness? (Matthew 1:22) [He always does what He says He will do.]
11. What important things does the name Immanuel teach us about God? (Matthew 1:23) [It tells us that God is personal and that He promises to be with us.]
12. How did Joseph respond when the Lord gave him instructions? (Matthew 1:24-25) [Joseph showed obedience by doing exactly what the Lord had commanded him to do.]