

The Good News of Christmas **Matthew 1:18-25 (NKJV)**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

While Luke's gospel gives us the birth of Jesus from Mary's perspective Matthew shows us what happened in the life of Joseph, Mary's husband.

Although Joseph was not the father of Jesus physically, yet he became his father in every other sense.

He became responsible for Mary and Jesus and protected them and provided for them until Jesus was grown.

Both Luke and Matthew give us the good news, the Gospel of the birth and life of Jesus.

Mary and Joseph both faced special challenges in order to be the parents of Jesus.

But with God's help they were able to accomplish it.

- I. A baby born
 - A. Regardless of what the abortion industry says, the birth of a baby is good news.
 1. There is new life with potential.
 2. I will always wonder if the people who would have discovered and prevented 9/11 were not aborted along the way somewhere.
 3. Maybe the doctor that would have discovered the cure for cancer or MS or alzheimers or some other disease the plagues our world.
 - B. We rejoice and congratulate new parents whenever a child is born.
 - C. But much more with Jesus.
 1. He alone is the Hope of the world.
 2. He alone gives eternal life.

3. He alone can give peace in the midst of the storms of life.
4. An all of that wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in of all places a manger.

D. That day had come.

1. The day foretold by the Lord Himself.
2. The day spoken of throughout Jewish history.
3. The day the prophets had foretold.

a. Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)

- (1) 6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

b. Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV)

- (1) 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

II. The promised Messiah

A. An unbelievable birth.

1. Born of a virgin.

B. A humble birth.

1. Born in a stable.
2. Laid in a manger.
3. Born into a poor family.

III. A Savior has come

A. Born to be a Savior in Israel.

1. They had had many saviors.
2. Joshua means savior.
3. Joshua is the Hebrew form for the Greek Jesus.

- B. Other saviors were but material, worldly saviors.
 - 1. But Jesus came to save us from ourselves.
 - 2. Mankind's greatest problem is not Covid.
 - 3. Mankind's greatest danger is mankind.
 - 4. I read yesterday about the genocide that is taking place in Ethiopia at this time.
 - 5. The foolishness of man is to think that they can be their own savior.
 - 6. It is not known for certain how many people died during the Black Death. About 25 million people are estimated to have died in Europe from the plague between 1347 and 1351.
 - 7. The total number of military and civilian casualties in World War I was about 40 million: estimates range from around 15 to 22 million deaths[1] and about 23 million wounded military personnel, ranking it among the deadliest conflicts in human history. *Britannica*
 - 8. World War II was the deadliest military conflict in history. An estimated total of 70–85 million people perished, or about 3% of the 1940 world population (est. 2.3 billion. *Wikipedia.org*
 - 9. 100 Years of Communism—and 100 Million Dead. *Wall Street Journal*

IV. He will save His people from their sins.

- A. But Jesus focus was not to give us the “good life” but “eternal life”
- B. He does this by taking away our sins and making us acceptable in God's holy sight.
 - 1. Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The ever lasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.