

You Are Here – Part 8

Matthew 1:18-25 NAS

# The Roles of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus!



The Nativity of Our Lord – 2012

December 24 at 6 PM

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ, please see today's brochure insert, which includes a summary of our current 9-part sermon series. Before we go to Matthew chapter 1 – *today's sermon text*, open the brochure to the timeline so that I can help you understand → what has happened so far, → the significance of the Christ of Christmas, → where we are today—**YOU ARE HERE**, and → what is yet to come!

1. **An Apparent Scandal – with a Christian Response:**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed [engaged] to Joseph, before they came together [as husband and wife] she was found to be with child [PREGNANT] by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man [an OT Christian who was trusting in the Promised Savior], and not wanting to disgrace her [it seemed apparent to Joseph that she had had relations with another man; how else can a woman become pregnant], desired to put her away secretly [to end the engagement privately].

2. **An Angel – with a Crystal Clear Message:**

- a. <sup>20</sup> But when he [Joseph] had considered this [to end their engagement privately], behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit [in other words, she has not been with another man; instead, the child she has conceived is from God].”
- b. <sup>21</sup> “And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins.”
- i. **She [Mary] will bear a Son** – That is the role God gave to her; the Son sent from God received His humanity from Mary. The Athanasian Creed puts it this way: “He is **God**, begotten from the substance of the Father, before all ages; and He is **man**, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; Equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.”
  - ii. **you [Joseph] shall call His name Jesus** – Joseph, the earthly father, had the role of naming the child Jesus, which means: *The Lord saves!*
  - iii. **He [Jesus] who will save His people from their sins** – Jesus did so by:

1. † Living without committing a single wrong.
2. † Receiving all the wrongs of all people when He was on His cross.
3. † Receiving God's punishment for every wrong.
4. † Declaring His victory—*It is finished!*
5. † Laying down His life!

c. <sup>22</sup> Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled, saying, <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin [*a woman who had never been with a man*] shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.” // God spoke through the apostle John to tell us even more about Immanuel: <sup>NAS</sup> **John 1:1** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being by Him... <sup>14</sup> And [*4,000 years later*] the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” *Jesus is God in the flesh, the only Savior from sin!*

3. **An Expression of Faith – Obedience:** <sup>24</sup> And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him [*did not call off the engagement*], and took her as his wife [*went ahead with the wedding*], <sup>25</sup> and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son [*Mary remained a virgin during her entire pregnancy; then the text implies that her and Joseph had normal husband-wife relations*]; and he called His name Jesus [*just as the angel had told him*].

**Conclusion:** Now, knowing more about:

- ➔ The BIG PICTURE of all time.
- ➔ The super-importance of the Christ.
- ➔ Where you are now—YOU ARE HERE.
- ➔ The fact that Jesus will come again like a thief in the night.

Let us – *by God's grace* – be ♦ever-sorry for our sins, ♦ever-trusting in Jesus alone as our Savior, and ♦ever-confident that *through Him* we are God's forgiven children!

Now, let us celebrate *the Christ of Christmas!* And all God's people said: **Amen!**