

## Scriptures & Notes for January 25, 2006 Matthew 1:16-25

16: and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

17: So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

18: Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit;

19: and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

20: But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit;

21: she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22: All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and his name shall be called Emmanuel"  
(which means, God with us).

24: When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife,

25: but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

### ***Discussion Notes:***

#### **Introduction:**

1:16 . . . Note the significant detour:

- 1:1-16, "\_\_\_ the father of" 39 times!
- 1:16, "Joseph the husband of" the mother!
- Why?
  - Joseph not the natural father
  - Jesus is Son of David through his step-father;
  - Mary is the Virgin Mother of the long awaited Messiah

1:17 . . . Four stages of the spiritual journey of God's people:

1. Abraham thru David: covenantal / family promises;

2. David thru Deportation: rebellion; breaking of covenant; "curses;
3. Deportation to Joseph / Mary: Hope / prayer/ prophesies/ waiting.
4. CHRIST! Redemption / forgiveness/ new life.

Reminiscent of our own lives/ the journey of every man:

(The Feast of the Conversion of the Apostle Paul)

1. Stage One: The promise of life with or without God;
  - a. Grace touches every person's heart (Romans 1:18-32)
  - b. Natural law / grace / Baptism / faith /;
  - c. Learn / fear of God / love of God / right & wrong; obedience
2. Stage Two: "All" fail to follow grace; sin / failure / apostasy
3. Stage Three: But grace never leaves;
  - a. Hope / repentance/ surrender / plead for mercy.
4. Stage Four: Christ / conversion

[break]

### **1: Matthew vs. Luke vs. Oral Tradition**

- i. Matthew & most of his listeners would have known, thru eyewitness accounts (oral tradition) all the stories later recorded in the Gospels. (John 21:25)
- ii. Therefore, not necessary to speculate whether Matthew read Luke;
- iii. Matthew chose his material because he was interested in addressing the concerns of his Jewish audience; (Lk 1:1-4; Jn 20:30-31)
- iv. Therefore, assume Matthew & most of his audience knew the details of Luke 1:26-80, which has already happened & Mary has returned showing.

### **2: Joseph:**

- A. "Betrothed"
  - Emphasis again on Mother Mary not Father Joseph;
  - Promise to marry; now called husband & wife; a child conceived during this period was considered legitimate, but the marriage was regarded as incomplete until husband formally "took possession" of his bride into home.
- B. "She was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit:"
  - No explanation of how Joseph knew this;
  - Why should we presume Joseph is not aware of Mary's experience?
- C. "Just man"
  - this defines how we must understand how & why Joseph responded;
  - "Do not fear:" Who? The people? NO! God.
- D. "unwilling to put her to shame"
  - Mary's Character: Lk 1:27-48; ECF
  - No sign that he doubted Mary
- E. The issue?
  - He is not the father, and tho betrothed, what does the law / God require?
  - Also, how will the Jews respond to Mary's explanation? (John 8!)

F. His decisions:

- “resolved to divorce her quietly”
  - Short of a clear instructions from God, he had to act on his informed conscience; Just man = obey God & his laws, as Jesus tells those he heals . . .
  - He knows he is not the father & believes Mary’s story; so what is he to do?
  - Follow law, but do it in such a way that doesn’t bring anger of ignorant neighbors down on Mary; he resolved to take the embarrassment upon himself.
- “As he considered this”
  - Actually grammar implies this happened after he had made up his mind. Therefore, like Abraham & Isaac; God was testing Joseph.
  - Abraham: God’s long awaited promise had come true! But he was challenged to be obedient, to decide to obey, & THEN he was stopped;
  - Joseph: God’s long awaited promise has come; but Joseph was faced with difficult decision; he was called to do what was right; once he decided, he was stopped bu an angel!
- Angel of the Lord: 1:20, 2:13, 2:19
- “He did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife.”

**3:Apologetics Issues:**

A: “Before / until”

B: Fulfillment of Prophecies

- 1:18 . . . either birth of “Jesus Christ” or “the Christ; either one signifies the coming of the Messiah!
- . “A virgin shall conceive . . . Emmanuel”
  - from Isa 7:14 (Greek Septuagint)
- “Son of David”
- “Jesus”: salvation not from Rome or oppression but sin.