

NOTES

December 17, 2017
The Faith Of Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, 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 the Child who has been 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 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us." 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

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Discussion Questions
Matthew 1: 18-25

1. What was Joseph likely afraid of when the angel said, “... **do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife ...**” (verse 20)? When has God totally interrupted your plans, for the better, leading to a greater expression of His glory?
2. What is the significance of the angel quoting from **Isaiah 7:14** in verses 22-23? What insight can we apply to ourselves as we seek to know God’s direction in our lives?
3. Joseph’s obedient response to the Lord’s message through the angel is recorded in verses 24-25 ... note that his response included patient waiting. How do we learn to patiently wait for greater things than immediate things? See **Isaiah 40:31** and **Galatians 5:23**.

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