

MATTHEW 1:18-25

» 18 † Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

» 19 † Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

» 20 † But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

» 21 † And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

» 22 † Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

» 23 † Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

» 24 † Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

» 25 † And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

- Christmas now has changed.
- The way we take Christmas, if you ever studied it, we are taking the--the Roman Catholic church's conception of when Christmas was.



- The festival of **Sol Invictus** on the **25th December** in the later Roman empire combined the festivals of both the old sun god (Sol Indiges) and the new official sun god (Deus Sol Invictus).
- The Roman emperor Aurelian created the cult of Sol Invictus during his reign in AD 270-275 (in the 3rd century) and, on his coins, Sol was described as 'Dominus Imperii Romani', the official deity of the Roman empire.
- The cult of Sol Invictus was centred in Rome but it was followed across the Roman empire. **Sol Invictus, the god of the sun, was one of the most important gods and he symbolised victory, as he defeated darkness and rose every morning. Sol Invictus was the patron of Roman soldiers.**

- Actually, Christ could not have been born on the twenty-fifth day of December, and be according with the Scriptures, because there's thirty foot of snow in Judaea in that time, see, so they...
- it could not been shepherds out on the hills, and so forth, and it'd be contrary then to all nature.
- **He came like nature.**



- Now notice that Constantine gave special feasts unto the people. They were the old pagan feasts with new names taken from the church, or in some cases Christian rites were taken and abused with pagan ceremonies.
- He took the worship of the **sun god** and changed it to the **Son of God**. Instead of celebrating on December 21, which is when they used to celebrate the feast to the sun god, they put it up to December 25th and called it the Son of God's birthday.
- But we know that **He was born in April** when life comes forth, not in December.


- The church in Rome began formally celebrating Christmas **on December 25 in 336**, during the reign of the emperor Constantine.
- As Constantine had made Christianity the effective religion of the empire, some have speculated that choosing this date had the political motive of weakening the established pagan celebrations.
- The date was not widely accepted in the Eastern Empire, where January 6 had been favored, for another half-century, and **Christmas did not become a major Christian festival until the 9th century.**





St Nicholas of Myra

- During the Middle Ages, often on the evening before his name day of **December 6**, children were bestowed gifts in his honour.
- The custom of gifting to children at Christmas was propagated by **Martin Luther** as an alternative to the previous very popular gift custom on St. Nicholas, **to focus the interest of the children to Christ** instead of the



57-1222 THE.GREAT.SHINING.LIGHT_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-24 N-1 SUNDAY_

- So as we, this time of the season, as we focus our thinking towards Christmas, **it's too bad that we have to lot it to a myth called Santa Claus, in the stead of the real Christmas that it's supposed to be.**
- Many little children in the land today know nothing more than Christmas means "a sleigh full of toys, and some mystic reindeers pouncing on the house,"
- to only learn later of **this myth**; to even hurt their faith, when it comes to know the true Christmas story,
- that **it had nothing to do with reindeers, or a man smoking a pipe, with fur around his coat.**



- And the fact of all the error and everything there is about it, there's something about it that the world tries to make it an Xmas, you know, and...
- But **God still's got a Christmas in it somewhere, hasn't He?** He sure has. He's got something about it, just the very names, and the thoughts of the birth of the Lord Jesus.
- **Oh, the world's put Santa Claus in His place, sure, but not to the Christian. It's still a Christmas.**

456 scriptural promises of the Messiah



Matthew 5:17

Think not that I am come to destroy the law,
or the prophets: I am not come to destroy,
but to fulfil.

A VOICE IS HEARD IN RAMAH



Rachel
weeping for
her children

31:15

...it had to be just at this time when this murderous king, Herod, nothing but a murderer, killed all those little children, that it might be fulfilled which was spoke of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **"In Rama, Rachel reaping, weeping for her children, and they were not."**

Jeremiah 31:15 Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.

- In Genesis, Rachel dies giving birth while on the road to Bethlehem. In the midst of her suffering, the midwife tries to comfort her with the news that she is having another son. In this way, her child is both her cause of weeping and her hope for the future.
- In Jeremiah's day, Rachel weeps over her children once more, this time because they are being led into captivity and exile near the very spot where she is buried. She is then comforted with the promise that her children will return. Once again, her offspring are both her cause of weeping and her hope for the future.
- In Matthew's day, Rachel weeps yet again: this time over the slaughter of the children at Bethlehem. No words of comfort are given her in Matthew, but the very next verse speaks of Herod's death and the return of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus to the land of Israel. Just as in Jeremiah's day, the situation seems bleak, but the hope of salvation lives on.

- **Bethlehem**
Herod raised taxes to force Mary and Joseph back to Bethlehem

- But thou, **Bethlehem Ephratah**, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, **yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel;** whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Michah 5:2



A Long Walk to Fulfill Scripture

- Now, it looks like a horrible thing, that poor little woman, in that place that she was in, **heavy with child, and would have to take that long journey.**
- Today, **we would hardly think of taking her in an ambulance. And she had to.**
- If you was ever in Palestine, and see where she had to come through that rugged, granite boulders, up through there, on the back of a little mule.
- No matter how bad it was, and how cruel it seemed, that was the king's orders, everybody must do it, young or old, prepared or not prepared, they had to do it, anyhow.



- Now, all these great things, and happened down there to--to this little couple, it seems strange.
- But, it might seem strange to them,
- **but it all was working together good.**

MATTHEW 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

- Think: all the grief that little girl had to go through
- Joseph
 - About 45 years old
 - A widower
 - Already had four children
 - A Just Man

MATTHEW 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

- She told, must have told him.
- This young virgin, beautiful, young Jewish maid, she become... We're all adults here, as far as I can see.
- She become to be mother.
- And Joseph going with her, noticed this, no doubt, after he was espoused to her, he found out that she was to be mother.
- Now, he was a just man, the Bible said he was.
- She must have told him of her innocence.
- The lovely woman, I can hear her, just as it were to say, "Joseph, my beloved friend, my beloved husband, **I am innocent of this.**" And she must have told him of the visit, with her and the great Archangel, that the Archangel had come to her, Gabriel, and had visit her with these great signs that He had told her about, that what was going to happen.

MATTHEW 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

- Joseph, being a just man, he kind of wondered, "You know, now I know if she's caught in adultery, the first thing is going to happen to her, **she's going to be stoned**. She cannot..."
- So, to Joseph, it seemed like that Mary was trying to get **him to be her shield from the scoffers and scorers**, see, Joseph was to be her shield; go ahead and marry her, anyhow, and be her shield, but not to be a husband to her in the of family relation, but it was to be... he was to be a-- a shield for her.

» 20 † But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

- God has, at all times, all ages, spoke to His people, and revealed Himself by dreams.
- Now, dreams are not an assurance.
- Every dream is not from God.
- Now, there's many people that has dreams, and they have all kinds of dreams.
- And you go to bed at night, and eat a big supper and go to bed, and you might dream anything.
- You might have a fever, and you might have all kinds of nightmares, and so forth, **that isn't God.**
- But, yet, **God does deal with people through dreams.**

» 20 † But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

- **A spiritual dream is interpreted, rightly interpreted, is the same as a vision.**
- **And what is a vision?**
- **A vision is the forecast of future events; it foretells the thing before it happens.**
- **And that's the way God always vindicated whether it was true or not, or whether the man (that was in the Old Testament) was supposed to be a prophet, what he said come to pass.**
- **Then they knowed;**
- **if this man said this, and it kept constantly coming to pass. Now, that man cannot just be hands layed on him, or shook up, and give a--a gift; he is born with that gift, born in him when he's born, before he's born.**

» 20 † **But while he thought on these things**, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

- **he pondered on the things**. It was so unusual, he could hardly comprehend that. **"How could those things be?"**
- But he, no doubt, sat down, prayed over it, studied it in the Scriptures. "How could these things be?"
- While he was studying, the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, in a dream.
- **If you'll just yield yourself to God, God has got many ways that He can reveal Himself to you. See? Might not, you might not be a prophet, you might not be a teacher, you might not be a Sunday school teacher, you might not be a preacher, but there's ways that God can reveal Himself to you, you see.**
- **Whether it might be dreams, it might be in some other way, if you'll just submit yourself like Joseph did.**

» 20 † **But while he thought on these things**, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

- Now, then God sent His Angel, and revealed it, His revelation of the dream come to Joseph; **he knowed, there was no mystery in it.** The Angel came to him in a dream. He saw the Angel in his dream.
- Then when Joseph rose from his sleep, oh, how his heart must have been full of newborn faith.
- And when God, in any way that He desires to do it, reveals to you the question that's in your mind, there's no more doubt, there's no more question about it. **It's a revelation.**

» 20 † **But while he thought on these things**, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

- When a man can be revealed that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever; no matter how many creeds try to turn it back, **you're glad to be a shield.** You're happy to be a shield. Let them say whatever, you got a big shield up there to knock the fiery darts off.
- **You're happy to be a shield. You're a doormat, whatever wants to be, it doesn't matter; it's been revealed to you by the Lord.**

115 Then, when the king gave his commandment, just when the Christ was being formed. Now let's take them just a moment, let's watch them, carry them just a little bit before we close.

I can see Joseph say, "Mary, darling, that cruel king!"

116 But she'd say, "Listen, dear. Remember, the Holy Ghost told me that 'His Name shall be called "JESUS," and He shall save His people from their sins,' His people from their sins. Now, Joseph, dear, no matter what takes place, and what the king says, I am able. I can set up on the little mule. It's several miles up around these rocky mountains, and so forth. And if we happen to need a little help, there'll be many in the journey, 'cause we're not the only family. There's others that suffered the same thing we have, so there's others along the road. And we can kind of go along with the rest of the crowd as they go up the hill, and go up into Bethlehem." For, from Nazareth, they come up across the mountain.



Now we find out that he must have got the little donkey, and--and fed him an extra bunch of hay and some oats that day, because the little lady was pretty heavy. So he sets her up on the little mule, and puts a bag of water and a few little biscuits; and gets the little donkey, and gets his stick in the hand.

And up the road they start, over, the little mule is staggering and falling. Oh, look what that little fellow is packing! Look at his burden, what it is! He's bearing the Christ to His birthplace. And here, this little woman sitting up on there, in pain, to be delivered, holding to the mane of the little mule, and speaking to him as she goes along the road.



- Finally, it begin to get dark. Travelers along the road, much more able to travel faster, and they'd come on by.
- And she had to breathe the dust of the rest of them upon horses and carriages, and so forth, that could go over it.
- **Because, she had to travel real slow, on the account of her condition.**
- What a cruel thing to send that mother up there in that condition!
- But I can just imagine now, in the little drama, as they come up to the top of the hill. Bethlehem sets in a... kind of like a valley, and on the--the west side of the mountain, of--of Bethlehem, the mountain where the little trail comes up.
- **The stars begin to come out.**
- **And, after a while, he comes up to the top of the hill.** And once again they look over into the city where they were both born, over in Bethlehem, the lights of the city.
- Many was there, places was crowded, people on the outside, sleeping on the ground, out along in the fields.
- And the question, perhaps the first time, then struck Joseph's mind.
- **"What will I do if I can't find a place, 'cause that Baby might be born tonight. She's been in pain all day. So, now, what if that Baby is to be born tonight?"**

Magus: the name given by the Babylonians (Chaldeans), Medes, Persians, and others, to the wise men, teachers, priests, physicians, astrologers, seers, interpreters of dreams, augers, soothsayers, sorcerers etc.

Isaiah 60:3,6

» 3 † And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

...

» 6 † The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD.

PSALM 72:10

» 10 † The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

« 152 † Nobody saw the Light that Paul saw, the same Thing. It struck him down, on the road up to Damascus. But It was given to Paul.

153 Nobody saw the Holy Ghost coming like a Light out of Heaven, a Dove, but John. He saw It, he bare record. He saw It, the rest of them didn't. He did, for he was looking for It.

The Magi were looking for It!

154 And when you are looking for It, **when you are ready to receive the real Christmas Present, the real Christmas Gift, God's Christ-Gift, the Holy Spirit. You're looking for It, you'll see It.** It's a Heavenly Light sent down from God, out of Heaven, to bear record of Jesus Christ.

155 **Now, they didn't take anybody else's word.** In the daytime, it was restless. They said, "Oh, I just can't wait. I don't know how much longer we'll go. We'll probably go to Jerusalem, or down to the Holy Lands, Palestine, 'cause that's where the prophecy said that this One is to be born at. **So we'll find It, sooner or later.**"



Palestine

Syria

Iraq

Tudmur (Palmyra)

Dura Europos

Abu Kamal

Al Manqora

Malabut

Annah

Sweda

Baghdad

Mees

Buzra

Jericho

Jerash

Elisha's Hill

Ar Ramadi

Al Falluja

Ctesiphon

Bethleem

Sippor

Kohe

Jordan

Israel

Matthew 2:1-12

- » 1 † Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, **behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,**
- » 2 † Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
- » 3 † When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.
- » 4 † And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
- » 5 † And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,
- » 6 † And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
- » 7 † Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
- » 8 † And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.
- » 9 † When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.
- » 10 † When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.
- » 11 † And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.