



A Christmas Love Story [Joseph and Mary] Matthew 1:18-25

This passage provides correspondence between New and Old Testament events, based on a conviction of the unchanging character of the principles of God's working, and a consequent understanding and description of the New Testament event in terms presented in the Old Testament text. - R. T. France [ECNT]

I. The Problem in Nazareth [18]

II. Joseph's Dilemma and Decision [19]

Noble, but absent of God's input. Until . . .

III. God's Great Interruption [20-21] [The Angels Message]

A. The "How?" question is answered [20]
From the Holy Spirit

B. The Baby Is Named - Jesus [21]

IV. Two Outcomes [22-25]

A. Prophecy Fulfilled [22-23]

B. Obedience - Joseph's Faith [24-25]

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ [Messiah] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, [Luke 1:26-27] before they came together she was found to be with child [showing] from the Holy Spirit. [Luke 1:35]

Luke 1:26-27,35 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.

Matthew 1:19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, [Deuteronomy 24:1] resolved to divorce her quietly.

Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and (A) he writes her a certificate of divorce and puts it in her hand and sends her out of his house, and she departs out of his house, . . .

Matthew 1:20-21 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, [Matthew 2:12, 13,19,22] saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, [Matthew 1:25, Luke 1:31, 2:21] for he will save his people from their sins." [Luke 2:11, Acts 3:26, 4:12, 5:31, 13:23, 38]

Matthew 1:22-25 All this took place [Matthew 21:4, 26:56, John 19:36] to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [Matthew 2:15, 2:23, 4:14, Mark 14:49]

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). [Isaiah 8:8, Isaiah 8:10]

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 given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus. [Matthew 1:21]

Study Questions/Prayer

- [1] Picture Joseph in a deep slumber. The world is quiet, and there's a coolness to the air. Imagine Joseph's surprise as the angel of the Lord suddenly appears to him. Does he cry out in surprise? Does he humble himself and change his posture? What is going through his mind as he hears that his people's long-awaited Savior is finally arriving? Joseph undoubtedly trusts God to fulfill His promises. Do you? [Abide]
- [2] How does the name Emmanuel differentiate Jesus from any other god?
- [3] How does the fulfillment of prophecy in this passage strengthen the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament? Where else do we see this connection in other bible passages?
- [4] Pray for God to help you reflect His character in all situations and walk in faith and love no matter what is happening around you.