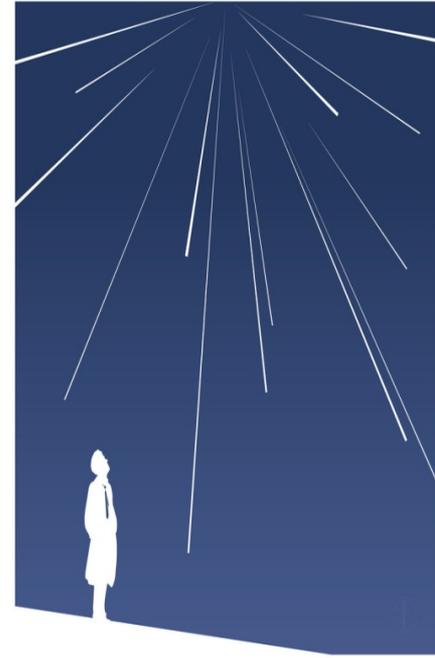


# The Gospel of Matthew

## *Joseph & The Announcement*



Mary (rebellious) life was turned upside down when God chose her to bear Him a Son. Does anything you do for the Kingdom cost you personally? If so, it is a **joyous** sacrifice, or *joyless*? Does anything you do for the Kingdom require **courage**, or even require **faith**? No one in God's Kingdom gets a pass to do nothing! Being involved and sacrificing in the pursuit of God's purposes is integral to actually knowing God personally! Sacrifice trains us to love Him and His purposes more than we love ourselves and our purposes!



SACRIFICE

# Vs. 1:18

Mary wasn't the only one chosen for this great task!

Joseph's life was tightly connected with Mary's, so it too was suddenly turned by God to go in a radically different direction! He was committed to God and His purposes, so I do not think he ever considered it an inconvenience – a bad thing.

Joseph would otherwise have lived a typically normal Judean life, the picture of simplicity itself, but suddenly his life had become much more complex! It began with an unexpected pregnancy. The first year of a betrothed (arranged) marriage was like an engagement period today. Unlike a non-Christian engagement of today, there was a strict cultural code that forbid sexual intimacy until the first year was completed! They had abstained as was proper - but Mary was suddenly, inexplicably, PREGNANT!



All Joseph knew was that HE had not impregnated her! He could only conclude that someone else had! Since Mary had not told him of any other man, she looked complicit – like she had been a willing participant in a secret illicit affair! Joseph's disappointment in his young wife was profound! A future together was suddenly not possible! We can conclude that he would have been crushed! Imagine the difficulty of that first conversation they had together when Mary had to tell Joseph she was pregnant! I wonder that God had caused this to happen in her! His respect for her would have plummeted even more dramatically than it already had! It would have been terribly lame! Of course, none of this is included in the bare-bones text. It only states that he was preparing to divorce Mary quietly.



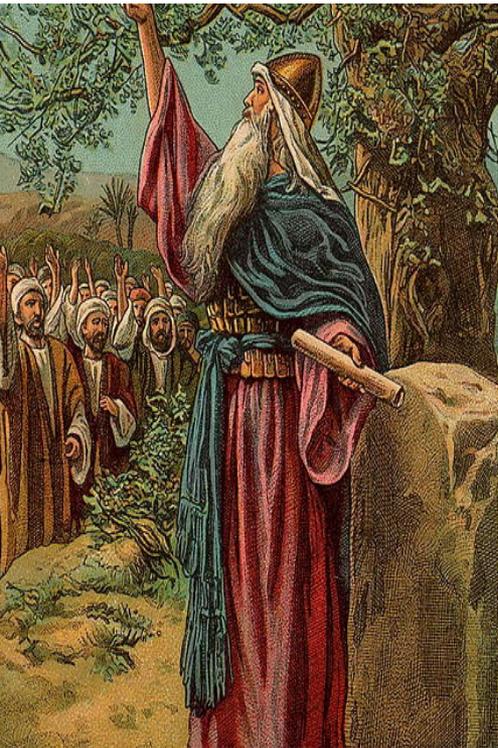
# Vs. 20

The explanation of the angel cleared things up for Joseph, (and for Mary's reputation as well). It's not often an angel suddenly appears to clear up a marriage in trouble. But now, after the explanation/announcement of the angel, not just Mary, but Joseph too, was called by God into this role of raising His Son! *He* had to be obedient now too! As we will see, agreeing to this would change the trajectory of Joseph's life as protector and provider of the family. Life, for him, would become much more **dangerous** and more **problematic!** Life also become more **interesting** for Joseph, and I think, more **satisfying!** His life was to become forever distinguished by important service in God's great world-saving purpose! He was now a major player in that effort!



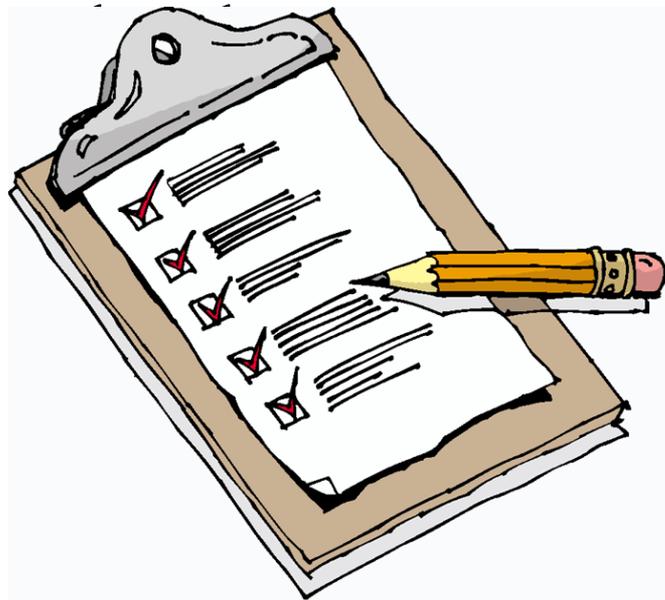
**Vs. 21 - “You are to give Him the Name, Jesus!”**

The Hebrew rendering of the name would have been **Ye/shu’/a**, with the most likely meaning of “**YHWH (Yahweh/Jehovah) Saves**”. It was not an uncommon name in that place at that time. The original **Yeshua (Joshua)** was an icon in Jewish history, leader/general of the conquest of Canaan, and therefore synonymous with valor, heroism, faith, and hope! It was an honorable name, made especially so by the one who was to bear the name on this special occasion!



**Vs. 22** – *“All this took place to fulfill the prophet..”*

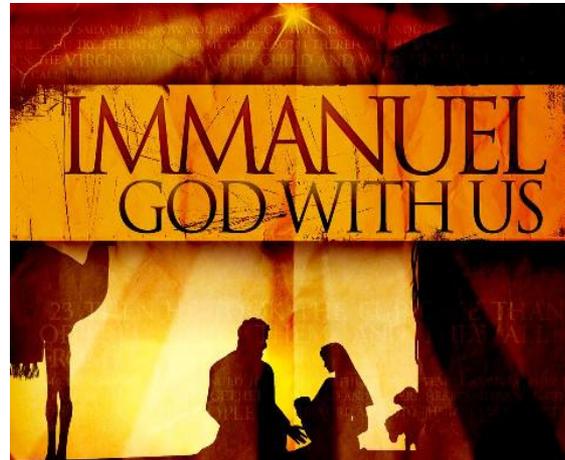
The prophetic connection. Remember the objective of this writer was to prove the of the messianic claims of Jesus. He wanted to show early in his gospel account that none of this just happened out of thin air, but was (and had always been) central to God’s overall plans! It was what God had been



methodically, bringing about since the fall of creation and humanity’s downfall in Eden. Now it had been made to happen, just as the prophets had fortold!

**[Isaiah 7:14]**

***“Immanuel”*** – (*God is with us*) – It could mean, ***“God is for us, or, God is on our side”***, or simply, ***“God is present”***. The Spirit of God had abandoned the temple long before this time. Judah had been a husk without the Presence, and had been trying so hard to induce God to come back. But God never returned to the temple. Yet here he returned to Israel in the form of this child! He was no longer a mysterious, ethereal, angry Presence in the inner sanctum of the temple any longer. ***He was and one of us now!***



in the temple ***HERE,***

**[1 John 1:1-4]**

**Vs. 24** – The dream felt real, like he’d had a real message from a real angel while awake! In fact, it felt so real to Joseph that when He actually did awake he went and did everything the angel in his dream had said to do (“*commanded*”)!

1<sup>st</sup> - He went to Mary and resolved matters with her first. Imagine what *that* conversation was like!



*“Hey Mary. I believe you now!”*

*“You do?!”*

*“Yup! Wow!... I guess we’re in for it now! Better buckle up, honey, ‘cuz we could be in for a bumpy ride here! Oh yeah - forget what I said before, ok? We’re back on.” ☺*

**2nd** – He took her home and accepted the ridicule and disgrace of the community who naturally thought he had jumped the gun.

**3rd** – He gave Mary space (and the baby). He respected God and even after the year was up, stifled his own natural desire for his wife until she was healed from childbirth.

**4rth** – After this special baby was born, Joseph went ahead and named Him “*Yeshua – (Jesus)*”

**Obedience** – the common trait shared by the key players in God’s purposes. Obedience lifts ordinary people to acts of extraordinary significance!



**[Jn. 14:23]**