

## **Annunciation to Joseph of Coming Messiah by Angel**

**Text:**

**Matthew 1:18-24,**

**18. This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.**

**19. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.**

**20. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.**

**21. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”**

**22. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:**

**23. “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.”**

**24. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.**

**Introduction:**

**I. The first chapter of Matthew answers a single question: Who is Jesus?**

**A. In Matthew 1:1-17, he is said to be the Son of David through his adoptive father Joseph who is the only person in the Gospels called the Son of David except for Jesus. Matthew 1:20.**

B. In Matthew 1:18-25 Jesus is shown to be the Son of God by immaculate conception and is, because of this, properly known as Immanuel; i.e., God with us, the incarnate deity.

II. Jesus, the divine Son of God, came to live among us in human form.

A. Matthew 17:17, “O unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “How long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.”

B. Matthew 18:20, For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

C. Matthew 26:29, I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom.

D. Matthew 28:20, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### **Commentary:**

**Matthew 1:18, This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.**

I. In those days betrothal was legally equivalent to marriage and adultery was punishable by stoning.

A. Deuteronomy 22:23, 24, If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death – the girl because she was in a town and did not scream

for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you.

B. John 8:5, In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?"

**Matthew 1:19, Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.**

I. Joseph was a righteous man and wanted to deal with the situation in such a way as to spare Mary undue embarrassment and public ridicule.

A. Joseph assumed Mary had committed adultery, had been unfaithful to him.

B. Joseph was indeed an unusual man. This is shown by the way in which Joseph planned to handle the matter.

C. Joseph did not take pleasure in broadcasting the "sin" of Mary as many would have done in our age.

D. Proverbs 11:13, A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.

E. Joseph's choices were to bring Mary to public trial or to privately give her a certificate of divorce in the company of two witnesses. Joseph chose the latter option.

Matthew 1:20, But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

I. Joseph faced a truly monumental problem and God helped him know exactly what he should do to resolve his dilemma.

A. As with Joseph so with us; what Joseph initially regarded as a problem came to be seen as an opportunity of unimaginable dimensions.

B. God's solution was announced by the angel. This was most likely Gabriel.

1. Luke 1:19, The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.

2. Luke 1:26, In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

II. Christians believe in angels.

A. Angels were present at Christ's resurrection. Matthew 28:5, The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

B. Angels appeared at the ascension of Christ. Acts 1:11, "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

C. An angel appeared to Cornelius. Acts 10:3, One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

- D. An angel appeared to Philip. Acts 8:26, Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”
- E. An angel appeared to Peter. Acts 12:7, Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

### III. Angels:

#### A. Frustrate the wiles of Satan.

1. Jude 6, And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home – these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

#### B. Punish wicked people.

1. 2 Kings 19:35, That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning – there were all the dead bodies.
2. Acts 12:23, Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

#### C. Influence governmental decisions.

1. Daniel 10:20, 21, So he said, “Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of

Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.)

2. Daniel 12:1, “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people – everyone whose name is found written in the book – will be delivered.”

D. Providentially lead people to repentance.

1. Acts 10:1-8, At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, “Cornelius!” Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea.” When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

E. Provide care for living saints.

1. Hebrews 1:14, Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

2. Matthew 18:10, “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.
3. Acts 5:19, But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.
4. Acts 12:7, Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

#### F. Comfort dying saints.

1. Luke 16:22, “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.

### IV. Jews often regarded **dreams** as a means of God’s communicating with mankind.

#### A. There were 12 different Old Testament men to whom it is said that God communicated in dreams.

1. Genesis 20:3, But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.”
2. Genesis 28:12, He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.
3. Genesis 31:10, “In breeding season I once had a dream in which I looked up and saw that the male goats mating with the flock were streaked, speckled or spotted.

4. Genesis 31:24, Then God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream at night and said to him, “Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.”
5. Genesis 37:5, Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.
6. Genesis 40:9, So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream. He said to him, “In my dream I saw a vine in front of me,
7. Genesis 40:16, When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given a favorable interpretation, he said to Joseph, “I too had a dream: on my head were three baskets of bread.
8. Genesis 41:1, When two full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream: he was standing by the Nile,
9. Judges 7:13, Gideon arrived just as a man was telling a friend his dream. “I had a dream,” he was saying, “A round loaf of barley bread came tumbling into the Midianite camp. It struck the tent with such force that the tent overturned and collapsed.”
10. 1 Kings 3:5, At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”
11. Daniel 2:3, He said to them, “I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.”
12. Daniel 7:1, In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying on his bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

V. Dreams were to be a sign of the Messianic age.

- A. Joel 2:38-32, “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the survivors whom the Lord calls.
- B. Acts 2:17-21, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
- C. Matthew 1:20, But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
- D. Matthew 2:12, 13, And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his

mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.

E. Matthew 27:19, While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

VI. The angel which appeared to Joseph in the dream told him:

A. Do not be reluctant to take Mary as your wife.

B. Her pregnancy is of the Holy spirit, not of fornication.

C. The child is to be named Jesus because he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21, She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

I. Joseph was told by the angel to name the child who would be born **Jesus** because he would save his people from their sins.

A. **Jesus**, also translated **Joshua**, was not an unusual name among the Jews. **Jesus** is the Greek form of **Joshua** which means "The Lord saves."

B. Jesus and John were both named by the angel.

**II. The Jews looked for a Political Liberator Messiah riding on a white horse leading the cavalry charge against Rome. What they got was a sinless Messiah leading the Calvary charge against sin and the devil.**

Matthew 1:22, 23, All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us.”

I. When all these things were accomplished it was in fulfillment of the words of Isaiah 7:14.

A. Isaiah 7:11-19, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right. But before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah – he will bring the king of Assyria.” In that day the Lord will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria. They will all come and settle in the steep ravines and in the crevices in the rocks, on all the thorn bushes and at all the water holes.

B. The basic application of this passage was clear to Ahaz and his advisors. Hezekiah or some other member of the royal line or Maher-Shalel-Hash-Baz may have been the one of whom Isaiah spoke.

1. Isaiah 8:3, Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the Lord said to me, “Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.

2. Virgin in this case meant young woman.

C. The secondary application was to the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:24, When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

I. The angel appeared to Joseph while he slept.

II. When Joseph woke he did without question as the angel had told him. He married Mary and took her home with him.

III. Joseph and Mary did not have sexual relations until after Jesus was born.

A. This refutes the idea of the perpetual virginity of Mary.

1. `Matthew 13:55, “Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?”

2. Mark 6:3, “Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

B. Jesus was Mary’s firstborn son.

1. Luke 2:7, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

C. Virginity is **not** a higher lifestyle than motherhood.

IV. Just as he had been directed, Joseph named the child *Jesus*.

## Annunciation to Joseph of Coming Messiah by Angel

### Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ to Joseph. Before they had co-habitated \_\_\_\_\_ was found to be \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Because \_\_\_\_\_ was a \_\_\_\_\_ man and did not want to expose her to \_\_\_\_\_, he intended to \_\_\_\_\_ her \_\_\_\_\_.

3. An \_\_\_\_\_ appeared to \_\_\_\_\_ in a dream and told him not to be \_\_\_\_\_ to take \_\_\_\_\_ home as you \_\_\_\_\_, because what is \_\_\_\_\_ in her is from the \_\_\_\_\_.

4. \_\_\_\_\_ will give \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_, and you will give him the name \_\_\_\_\_, because he will \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ from their \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The prophet had said, "The \_\_\_\_\_ will be with \_\_\_\_\_ and will give \_\_\_\_\_ to a \_\_\_\_\_, and they will call him \_\_\_\_\_ which means \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Joseph woke up and did what the \_\_\_\_\_ him and took \_\_\_\_\_ home as his \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Jesus is shown to be the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

8. In those days \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_.

9. An angel appeared to Joseph. An angel was present at Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. An angel appeared to \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

10. Angels frustrate the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ people, influence \_\_\_\_\_ decisions, \_\_\_\_\_ lead people to \_\_\_\_\_, provide care for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

11. God communicated in dreams to twelve people in the Old Testament: viz.,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

12. According to \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ were to be a sign of the \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Jesus, also translated \_\_\_\_\_, was a common name among the Jews and means \_\_\_\_\_.

14. The Jews looked for a \_\_\_\_\_.

15. The doctrine called the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is false because Jesus was Mary's \_\_\_\_\_ son.

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:  
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