

Christmas Miracle

Matthew 1:18-25

Story of Christmas is filled w/ joy, love, peace, expectation & puts people in the realm of *living happily ever after*. A time when cares of this world are put on pause & joyful times are before us. *Old Christmas songs* w/ **Santa** like a *pseudonym* for **Jesus** singing of peace, joy, love, close family ties, etc

World uses a *pseudo* name for Jesus because it wants what Jesus has to offer **but not** Jesus Himself. **Why?** Because then they are accountable & answerable to Him who brings all good things—but drunkenness & revelry & carousing not fly if Jesus instead of Santa is the **theme**. One old song-- *Christmas all year long 365 days; other Santa-for president*...wanting what Jesus has to offer but not Jesus Himself...so Christmas is about **Santa** & meaning of Christmas remains an illusion, a fantasy, a daydream until we come to know & accept the true meaning of Christmas, Jesus Christ coming into the world & into our life & at that point the miracle of Christmas begins.

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, desired to put 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 that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." 22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 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 arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, 25 and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Mary was just a teenager when God would change the world thru her life. She was engage to Joseph--back in those days it was customary to marry at a very early age.

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Both families admired & respected each other so they arranged the marriage & engagement even at such a young age. Joseph was a hard worker & a skilled craftsman, working in wood & stone. Mary loved to read & study the bible. She especially loved the [Psalms of David](#) & had memorized many parts of scripture, weaving them together in a beautiful tapestry of praise songs to God. It was difficult living an honest & moral life in a wicked city like Nazareth. The town was so filled w/ scandal & corruption, it became a byword '*can anything good come out of Nazareth*'.

Yet Joseph & Mary were different, didn't give into pressure of culture or peers but were **faithful** to God--parents--each other. Gabriel appeared to Mary w/ a greeting *favored of God* which shocked her. Gabriel said *don't be afraid God has chosen you to give birth to Jesus*, He will be great & called the son of the Most High & will save His people from their sins. Mary wondered *how can this be, I have never been w/ a man*. She realized it will be a miracle birth when Gabriel said *The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the most high will overshadow you and for that reason the Holy offspring shall be called the Son of God*'

Parthenogenesis from Mary's womb. Grk **Parthenos**—virgin (*Genesis*) creation. Life from a virgin. Growth & development of an embryo w/o fertilization. *Bible teaches about science but science will never teach the bible*. Creator is never taught by what He has created. His fingerprints are what science discovers--Science says *Parthenogenesis* exists in lower forms of life, certain rock lizards & the Brah-miny blind snakes, some bees and other lower forms of life.

As Mary leaves for home to join Joseph she has two things on her mind. **First**, she must tell him she is pregnant.

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Second how it happened....by the HS. Joseph hears what she says & is mystified, hurt & heartbroken--feeling betrayed yet his compassion for Mary is great. He in no way wants to shame her. There is a way out, a way to deflect attention away from the situation. *The Mosaic law required stoning.* Joseph to guard her, wants to put her away privately---**Relocate** in some distant place so the small town gossips of Nazareth not destroy her life. If they find out I'll deal w/ it & not let the bullies bully her in her failings.

But Joseph doesn't realize Mary has done no wrong. People can think what they want to think, *people will be people* but this child, Joseph is about to find out, is a miracle of God. The night before he was about to divorce her privately an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream saying don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit...she will bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins.

Joseph likely felt ashamed that he had doubted Mary when she told him the same story the angel was telling him but afterward he arose from the dream & took Mary as wife.

The prophecy given by Isaiah over 750 years earlier said this would happen **7:14** *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel....* All other human pregnancies & births have a natural explanation, like the woman w/ **14 children, ages 1 thru 14 who was in divorce court suing her husband on grounds of desertion.**

The judged asked 'When did he desert you? She replied 'Thirteen years ago.' Puzzled the judged said 'If he left you 13 years ago, where did all these children come from?' "Oh," said the woman, 'he kept coming back to say he was sorry....'

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Many myths & legends given for counterfeit virgin births—**Buddha** whose mother, Maya, supposedly saw a great white elephant enter her belly.

Hinduism claims that the divine Vishnu, after reincarnations as a fish, tortoise, boar, and lion, descended into the womb of Devaki and was born as her son Krishna. **Alexander the Great**-virgin born by the power of Zeus in a snake that impregnated his mother, Olympias. **Zoroaster's** son, Sargon king of Akkad, etc

Liberal scholars make shipwreck of untaught churches & Christians by denying the virgin birth. Yet to deny the virgin birth is to deny the deity of Jesus Christ leaving us w/ a so-called savior who is a sinner.

A recent report of seminary students showed 56% of those going into the ministry do not believe in the virgin birth. 60% Methodist, 49%

Presbyterian, 44% Episcopalian ministers don't believe in the virgin birth.

Matt Henry 'the mystery of Christ's incarnation is to be adored, not pried into.'

Matt 1:1-17 declares the Royal-Kingly line of Christ-**deity**—descended from Ab, David, Solomon & Joseph. Luke traces the Bloodline from Adam, Abraham, David, Nathan & Eli-**humanity** (Joseph's father in law)-**Pedigree** is crucial in identifying Messiah. **Saluki Theta-white lightning of Shrinagar**.

Nowhere of any historical document is a genealogical record as precise & accurate—it's **supernatural** in its intent and preservation. **Movie Zeitgeist 'not for the faint hearted'** claiming Christianity was taken from pre-existing Egyptian myths such as life giving sun worship known as God's sun, the light of the world..' Jesus solar-deity of the Gnostics

Genealogy guards against such attacks. Jesus **humanity**—maligned (**born of fornication Jn 8:41**). **Deity**--opposed (**stone Him**) Jn 10:31-33.

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Incarnation is central to salvation. *God was in Christ (God/man) reconciling the world to Himself 2 Cor 5:19.*

When lame man healed at gate Beautiful & controversy arose because Jesus, the one the Sanhedrin crucified & thought they'd done way w/ Him but now the disciples healed a man lame 40 years unable to walk saying what power & name have you done this? Peter filled w/ HS *Acts 4:10 let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11 “He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone. 12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”*

God has given us salvation at Christmas—sins forgiven, home in heaven, clean slate, new start....best gift ever. Lots of gifts will be given this Christmas...what are you hoping for?

Survey of most unwanted gifts at Christmas: plants--beauty products--drinks. 56% of people will re-gift unwanted gifts. 42% will return or exchange them for something they like.

The Hottest & Most Popular Trending Gifts You Should Be Giving in 2023

according to one magazine: Apple AirPods Max; Bronax Pillow Slippers; Apple Gift Card; Etronik Weekender Bag; Sony WF-1000XM5 (headphones)

Have you ever re-gifted? Have you ever received a present that you suspect is a re-gift? Here are 10 most commonly re-gifted Christmas gifts **10. Candles 9. Picture Frames 8. Gift Baskets 7. Perfume 6. Fruitcake 5. Wine 4. Cookbooks 3. Bath Soaps 2. Books 1. Pajamas.** **But** there is one gift we all need to re-gift. Gift of eternal life God has given to us—we, in turn, need to offer it to others-it's the most ignored gift at Christmas. John 3:16 For God so loved.....