

"THE UNFOLDING ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST"
MATTHEW 1:16-25

INTRO: Matthew 1:16-25 is a passage of scripture we are all familiar with as it relates to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, many times we read it without giving too much thought to the **DIVINE SIGNIFICANCE AND PURPOSE OF THE TEXT**. The first part of verse 18 actually presents the purpose for the entire text when it says: **"NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS ON THIS WISE."** In that phrase the Holy Spirit is giving us a heads up on what He wants us to know about our Savior's birth. Please note some observations about verse 18:

- 1) The word **"NOW"** indicates a change of order in the text. In verses 1-17 the scripture presents the **HUMAN GENEALOGY OF CHRIST** through **JOSEPH**, though we keep in mind that he was **NOT** the human father of our Lord. But the purpose of this genealogy is to show the **ROYAL LINEAGE OF JESUS CHRIST**.
- 2) The word **"BIRTH"** indicates that Jesus was actually physically born into the human race.
- 3) The words **"JESUS CHRIST"** indicate **WHO** Jesus truly is:
 - **JESUS** = His Human Name which means **"SALVATION IS OF THE LORD."**
 - **CHRIST** = His Divine Title which means **"THE ANOINTED MESSIAH."**

My sermon title: **THE UNFOLDING ACCOUNT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST."**

SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS OF VERSES 16-18

- 1) **Verse 16** - There is a clear change in the terminology at this point. Up to this point the word **"BEGAT"** is used (**at least 37 times**) to indicate the physical birth of those named in the genealogy. Verse 16 does **NOT** say that Joseph **"BEGAT"** Jesus, but that **"JOSEPH WAS THE HUSBAND OF MARY OF WHOM WAS BORN JESUS"** indicating that Joseph was **NOT** the actual human father of Jesus.
- 2) **Verse 17** - Indicates 3 separate times in Israel's history: (Over 2000 years)
 - From Abraham to David – **The Patriarchal period of Israel.**
 - From David to Babylon – **The Monarchal period of Israel.**
 - From Babylon to Christ – **The Dark-Aged period of Israel.**

NOTE: **The Birth of Jesus Christ brought a drastic change to Israel. From the history of the PATRIARCHAL FATHERS to the HUMAN KINGS of Israel, to the DISPERSION IN CAPTIVITY of Israel to the ARRIVAL OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH.**

- 3) **Verse 18** - Reveals a change for Israel from their **DARK AGES** to their opportunity to experience the **SPIRITUAL LIGHT AND HOPE OFFERED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THE MESSIAH**. Compare John 1:1-13.

A VERSE-BY-VERSE PRESENTATION OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF CHRIST
VERSES 18-25

- 1) **Verse 18:** The Conception of Mary – **"Found with Child of the Holy Ghost"**
- 2) **Verse 19:** The Response of Joseph – **"Put her away ("APOLOU") Privily"**
- 3) **Verse 20:** The Appearance of the Angel – **"Fear not to take Mary thy Wife"**
- 4) **Verse 21:** The Mission of Jesus – **"Save His People from their Sins"**
- 5) **Verses 22,23:** The Prophetic Explanation – **"Spoken of the Lord by the Prophet"**
- 6) **Verses 24,25:** The Obedience of Joseph – **"Did as the Angel of the Lord"**

WHAT DOES THE ACCOUNT OF THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST REVEAL?

I. THE INCARNATION REVEALS THAT GOD HAD A PLAN TO PORTRAY

FROM THE FALL INTO SIN OF HUMANITY THROUGH ADAM, TO THE PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH THROUGH THE SEED OF EVE, THROUGH THE GENELOGICAL LINEAGE OF THE GENERATIONS, THROUGH THE WEAKNESS OF THE NATION OF ISRAEL, TO THE LIVES OF JOSEPH AND MARY, GOD WAS AT WORK PORTRAYING HIS PLAN OF REDEMPTION THROUGH THE MESSIAH!

- A. God's Plan Promised Redemption to all of Humanity – Genesis 3:15
- B. God's Plan Preserved the Seed through Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3
- C. God's Plan Prophesied the Birth of the Messiah – Isaiah 7:14
- D. God's Plan Prepared the Personnel to Use – Matthew 1:16

II. THE INCARNATION REVEALS THAT GOD HAD A PURPOSE TO PROMOTE

- A. To Provide a Savior – Vs. 21

"HE SHALL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS"

- 1. The People Identified – Romans 1:16
- 2. The Process Included:
 - a. The Virgin Birth of Christ – **To Maintain Christ's Sinlessness**
 - b. The Sacrificial Death of Christ – **To Pay the Wage of Sin**
 - c. The Victorious Resurrection of Christ – **To Provide Eternal Life**
 - d. The Glorious Ascension of Christ - **To Secure Intercession for Us**

- B. To Provide a Revelation – Vs. 23

"GOD WITH US"

- 1. The Revelation of God through Jesus was necessary for Humanity to understand the Holy Nature of God via Christ's Presence – John 1:14-18.
- 2. The Revelation of God through Jesus was necessary for Redemption to be provided – 2 Corinthians 5:21.

III. THE INCARNATION REVEALS THAT GOD HAD A PROVISION TO PROVIDE

- A. The Provision of a Perfect **SAVIOR** without Sin – Hebrews 4:14,15
- B. The Provision of a Perfect **SALVATION** for all Humanity – Roman s 10:13
- C. The Provision of a Perpetual **SECURITY** for all Believers – 1 Peter 1:3-5

LESSON/APPLICATION

- 1) That all that God has planned will come into fruition without error.
- 2) That we can Believe God to do all that He has Promised.
- 3) That Jesus Christ is the **ONLY PERFECT SAVIOR** for Humanity.
- 4) That we have a Great Message to Proclaim to the World.