

BIBLE STUDY – LESSON 5

SUBJECT: BIRTH OF JESUS

DECEMBER 18, 2009 & JANUARY 8, 2010

1. Matthew Chapter 1

1.1. Christ Born of Mary (Verses 18-25)

1.1.1. Notes

- Verse 18: Betrothed – Engaged to be married.
- Verse 18: “Before they came together” means they had no physical intimacy. The marriage would have likely been consummated if they were already married. But it was prophesied that Jesus would be born of a virgin.
- Verse 19: Notice that Matthew calls Joseph her husband even though they were not yet married. This is an indicator of how strong the vow of engagement was viewed in that time.
- Verse 19: Read **Dt 22:23-24** - By the law, Joseph could have had Mary publicly stoned to death for being pregnant by someone other than himself. Engagements were more binding than a modern engagement and could be broken only by divorce. Joseph was not going to embarrass her publicly even though he, naturally, thought Mary had been unfaithful. This speaks highly of Joseph’s character.
- Verse 20: The angel calls him “son of David” in reference to his ancestor, King David. Jesus is also referred to as the “Son of David” in various scripture. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would come from the line of King David (**Isaiah 9:6-7**).
- Verse 20: The angel tells Joseph to not be afraid to marry Mary.
- Verse 22-23: Read **Isaiah 7:14** – Isaiah prophesied these events many years earlier.
- Verse 24: Upon waking, Joseph obeyed the angel’s command and took Mary home as his wife. They were not living together up until this point.
- Verse 24-25: Even after marrying Mary, Joseph did not “know” his wife until Jesus had been born. Even though Mary was a virgin upon conception, she had to remain a virgin until after Jesus’ birth as fulfillment of prophecy.

2. Matthew Chapter 2

2.1. Wise Men From The East / The Flight Into Egypt / Massacre of the Innocents (Verses 1-18)

1.1.2. Notes

- Verse 1: King Herod was ruthless. He had murdered his wife, three sons, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, and uncle.
- Verse 1: Magi or wise men were Gentiles.
- Verse 6: Micah gave this prophecy 700 years earlier (**Micah 5:2**).
- Verse 11: Contrary to tradition, the wise men visited Jesus at the house, not the manger as the shepherds had. Tradition is that there were three wise men but the Bible does not give a number. That was probably assumed due to the three gifts mentioned.

- Verse 13-15: Matthew is referring to the prophet Hosea's statement that the nation of Israel came out of slavery in Egypt led by Moses (**Hosea 11:1**). Jesus came out of Egypt symbolic of the event.
- Verse 18: **Jeremiah 31:15**

3. Revelation Chapter 12

3.1. The Woman, The Child, and the Dragon (Verses 1-6)

1.1.3. Notes

- Verse 1: The woman is the nation of Israel (see **Genesis 37:9-10**).
- Verse 2: The Child is Jesus.
- Verse 3-4: Refers to King Herod's attempt to kill Jesus as a baby.
- Verse 5: Upon fulfillment of His mission, God took Jesus up to His throne after He was crucified and resurrected.
- Verse 6: God protects the Jews during the Great Tribulation which will be 1260 days or 3.5 years.