

## **The Baby's Birth Announcement**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

#### **Introduction**

**“It's the most wonderful time of the year.”**

But not for everyone. I'm so grateful your here. But is Christmas difficult for you? For some Christmas is fraught with danger.

My son Anthony and his wife Sarah when they found out she was pregnant an the baby was due in December posted an eviction notice on Django's crib!

#### **The Realization: That's Not My Baby (vv.18-19)**

*Matthew 1:18–25 (NKJV) 18Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

*19Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.*

In Matthew's Gospel we read; “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:”

We are told “His mother” is Mary. And Joseph is called “her husband” and not His father.

In Luke's Gospel we are given the details of the birth of Jesus largely from Luke's perspective (Luke 2:1-7).

Joseph is called “a just man”. Bishop Handley Moule believed this meant Joseph was a man willing to anxiously to do his duty both to God and family.

#### **The Revelation: That Baby Is The Savior (vv.20-23)**

*20But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

This is not the first time God sent an angel in the New Testament. You will recall that an Angel appeared to Zacharias and told him his elderly wife Elizabeth would conceive a son who we know as John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25). An angel appeared to Mary concerning the birth of

## **The Baby's Birth Announcement**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

Jesus. And now the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream to remind Joseph of his fiancé's purity.

*21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

*22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:*

*23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."*

### **The Recognition: That Baby Is God (vv. 24-25)**

*24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,*

*25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.*

Joseph was willing to do exactly as the angel of the Lord commanded. He was willing to fully and completely embrace Mary as his God given wife.

By all standards and measures Joseph was "a just man" (v.19). It is interesting to compare the Joseph of the New Testament with the Joseph of the Old Testament. Both had father's named Jacob. Both had amazing maturity. Both experienced family difficulty. Both received visions from God. Both were in Egypt. One was a type of Christ and the other Christ's legal guardian.

In fact—if it were not for Judah's sin, Joseph would have been ruling from Jerusalem as the rightful king when Christ was born. It was Joseph—not Herod who had the proper credentials to sit on David's throne.

The baby's name is Jesus.

Francis Thompson (1859-1907) wrote;

*Little Jesus wast Thou shy  
Once and just as small as I?*

**The Baby's Birth Announcement**  
**Matthew 1:18-25**

*And what did it feel to be  
Out of Heaven and just like me?*

**Conclusion**