

JOSEPH, THE HUSBAND OF MARY

Matthew 1:18-25

Learn: Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Isaiah 46: 10, 11

Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened like this: Mary was espoused to Joseph. That is, Mary was engaged, but that engagement was a binding vow, as if they were already married, though they were not yet living together. To break their engagement, called a betrothal, would take a divorce.

When Joseph learned that Mary was expecting a child of the Holy Ghost, he didn't know what to do. For Joseph was a just man, and didn't want to hurt Mary by making her a public spectacle. Her life would then be ruined with shame. All her life, people would speak ill of her and no one else would marry her.

While he was considering what he should do, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David. Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS for he shall save his people from their sins."

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." This prophecy is found in Isaiah 7:14.

Then Joseph awoke from sleep. Immediately he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do. He took Mary for his wife. But he did not have husband relations with Mary until after the child was born, so that Mary was truly a virgin who gave birth to Emmanuel-Jesus as the prophet had foretold.

Consider these things:

1. When Joseph was told by Mary the news that she was pregnant and not yet married to him. She must have told him of the angel's visit and what he said to her. He did not hastily jump to conclusions, but carefully considered what he should do. As he learned from Proverbs 14:29

We all should learn to be thoughtful and careful to consider the consequences of our actions.

2. Joseph was a man of courage, for he knew that people would never forget or stop speaking of the scandal of him quickly marrying Mary because she was with child. To do what is right no matter what people may say takes great courage, we cannot do it on our own, we need God's help.
3. Again we are reminded that all this that happened to Mary and Joseph was spoken hundreds of years before it happened by the Lord through his prophets. PROPHECY IS PROOF that THE BIBLE IS TRUE. What God says he will do. Those prophecies not yet fulfilled will surely come to pass. We can trust God's Word.