

Episode #649 Matthew 1 Part 3-Joseph's Dilemma

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being "in Israel," in contrast to believers today who are "in Christ."

II. We concluded our study of the lineage or pedigree of Christ in Matthew in our last study, tracing it out through three groups of fourteen generations from Abraham to Christ. Now, we move on to...

III. The Birth of Christ.

A. Verse 18. Of the Holy Spirit = our faith hangs on this. If the Lord was a common, human bastard He could be no Savior. The Holy Spirit = in Greek there are no articles, "by means of spirit holy." Meaning the holy power of the Holy Spirit.

B. Verse 19. Joseph's dilemma.

1. Husband = notice that they were betrothed husband and betrothed wife.
2. Why "just"? Justice was clear in Deuteronomy 22:21. Instead he planned to act on Deuteronomy 24:1. How was this just? Only if he thought she might be telling the truth! Deuteronomy 22:19 would apply then.

C. Verse 20. The angel's interference.

1. He was deliberating on this. Making sure in his mind it was what he should do
2. "An" angel, not "the" angel, which is the Lord Himself.
3. "Lord" is *Kurios*, often used in the New Testament for Jehovah or Yahweh in the Old. Yet also used for Adonai, and can mean a human master.
4. Dreams are only found in Matthew, the book particularly to Jews! Here, 2:12 (the wise men), 2:13, 2:19, and 2:22 (Joseph), and 27:19 (Pilate's wife).
5. Son of David = an appeal to a humble man under this noble title!
6. Your wife = notice not "engaged," but already husband and wife.

IV. Conclusion: The faithful human, legal father of the Lord, Joseph, is most impressive. He is a just or righteous man, and he considers the dilemma he faces carefully and thoughtfully. How many young men today would do as well? Let us all learn from the example of this righteous foster-father of our Lord.