



Dictionary

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## A Call to Respond

### Matthew 1:17-25

*Matthew 1:17-18* says, "So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; And from David unto the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations. **Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: when as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, BEFORE they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**" (And according to the Reese Chronological Bible, Jesus was born on April 1, 5 B.C.: not sometime in December.)

**Espoused, defined 3423, to give a souvenir (engagement present), i.e. betroth: -espouse.**

Betroth, 1. to PROMISE to take in marriage. 2. AFFIANCE (to pledge one's faith to for marriage: SOLEMNLY promise [oneself or another] in marriage)

Espouse, 1. to take as spouse: WED; to take as wife 2. obs: to promise in marriage

*Verse 19* says, "Then Joseph her husband, being a JUST man, and not WILLING to make her a publick example, was MINDED to put her away PRIVILY."

**Just, defined 1342, equitable (in CHARACTER or action); by impl., HOLY, righteous.**

Equitable, characterized by equity: FAIR to ALL concerned: without PREJUDICE, FAVOR or rigor entailing undue hardship

**A. Deuteronomy 22:13-21**, If any man take a wife, and go in unto her, and hate (to have strong aversion to: DETEST, RESENT), and give occasion of speech against her...and say, I took this woman, and when I came to her, **I found her not a maid (1331, virginity; by impl. and concretely the tokens of it.). Then shall the father of the damsel, and her mother, take and bring forth the tokens of the damsel's virginity unto the elders of the city in the gate... and the elders of that city shall take that man and CHASTISE (3256, to chastise, lit [with blows] PUNISH.) him.** And they shall amerce (6064, fine.) him in an hundred shekels of silver, and... **he may NOT put her away all his days.**

**But if this thing be true and the TOKENS of virginity be not FOUND for the damsel: ...they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, ...the men of the city shall stone her with stones that she die... So shalt thou put evil away from among you.**

**NOTE:** This section of scripture explains what is meant by "making her a publick example". Did you notice that the scripture in **Deuteronomy 22:13** began with him resenting or detesting her and this leading to her being made a public example? Joseph knew **SINCE Mary was "found with child" (showing in her body) that, by NATURAL evidence, she could not PROVE herself to be a virgin.** And since he was NOT yet aware of her being overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and **becoming pregnant as a virgin, as Isaiah 7:14 had stated, he was going to "put" (7971, SEND AWAY, or DIVORCE.) her away privily (2977, privately, SECRETLY.)**

**B. Deuteronomy 24:1-2**, When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some UNCLEANNESS in

**her:** then let him write her a **bill of DIVORCEMENT, and...**

**C. Matthew 19:3-12,** The Pharisees also come unto him (Jesus), tempting him, and saying...

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**is it lawful (1832, right.) for a man to PUT AWAY his wife for EVERY CAUSE?** And he answered... **have ye not READ, that he which made them at the BEGINNING made them male and female, and said... shall cleave (4347, TO GLUE, adhere.) to his wife...? ...I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication (4202, harlotry [including adultery and incest].), and shall marry another, committeth adultery and...**

*Matthew 1:20* tells us, while Joseph thought on these things, **BEHOLD (SEE), the angel of the Lord APPEARS unto him in a DREAM,** and says, "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.**"

**Dream, verse 20 defined 3677, dream**

Dream, A series of THOUGHTS, IMAGES, or emotions occurring during sleep (**Here, and at other times, thoughts, images, and emotions from God.**)

Vision, **1a.** something seen otherwise than by the ordinary sight: an imaginary, SUPERNATURAL, or PROPHEMIC sight beheld in SLEEP... or ECSTASY. **b.** the apparition [supernatural appearance] of a person (as in a dream). (**In this case, Joseph has a NIGHT vision; he's sleep, and sees an angel giving him information.**)

**NOTE:** Now, Daniel also had what is known as NIGHT visions from God. They occur during SLEEP: **Job 33:14-15, Isaiah 29:7, Daniel 2:19 and Daniel 7:1-2. Daniel 1:17** says ...And Daniel had understanding in ALL VISIONS and DREAMS.

**A. Genesis 20:1-12,** ...But God came to Abimelech in a DREAM by night and said unto him... thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken... she is a man's wife...

**B. Genesis 31:6-13,** ...And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying Jacob...

**C. Numbers 12:1-10,** ...Hear now my words: if there be a PROPHEM AMONG YOU, I the Lord will make myself **KNOWN unto him in a VISION, and will speak unto him in a dream...**

**D. Daniel 2:19, 27-30,** Then was the secret REVEALED unto Daniel **in a NIGHT vision.** ...God...maketh known...thy **dream, and the VISIONS of thy head...**

**NOTE:** We see from these scriptures that the Lord and his angels spoke at certain times while people slept. **God can, and STILL does, do so, as he chooses, even to those who are not of his kingdom.** However, as he said in **Numbers 12:6,** he'll speak to the prophet or prophetess on a **REGULAR basis through dreams. This is part of their ministry equipment.**

**There are a number of the gifts of the Spirit that manifest themselves as he speaks and gives thoughts.** With Joseph, we see a word of knowledge, word of wisdom, discerning of spirits, and prophecy in **verse 20;** also in **Matthew 2:13, 19-20.** This is not to say that Joseph was a prophet, but the Lord did CHOOSE to WARN and INSTRUCT him in this manner.

Confidence in a dream being of God comes as we first, **MEDITATE his word and LEARN, and thereby become sensitive to recognize his Spirit and his voice.** And last of all, when we SEE the dreams we have from him get proven with PHYSICAL evidence as to their truth. After that, because of **deep RESPECT** for the Lord, we'll **OBEY instructions that come in dreams.**

In Joseph's case, because of his RESPECT for the Lord, he had STUDIED and BELIEVED God's WORD and was familiar with **Isaiah 7:14.** And like everybody else, he was LOOKING for the Messiah to come. **So, what SEEMED like a bad situation between him and Mary turned out to be a tremendous BLESSING!** All because of his LOVE for God, and his WORD, which is why, he was so JUST. **And because he BELIEVED what the angel said: since he QUICKLY judged the angel's WORDS and found they AGREED with scripture, he got PEACE of**

**mind as well as JOY.** And then later, he saved the life of Jesus when he left for Egypt the same night after awakening from sleep. **That's OBEDIENCE!**

**The Lord in this area had TRAINED him.** So when a LIFE OR DEATH situation arose, he was SKILLED as to what to believe about DREAMS, and whether or not they're of God!

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**And did you notice that Mary did NOT try to explain to Joseph how it came to be she was pregnant?** The Lord must have led her to keep silent and let him reveal it to her husband. **So, she RESTED in her FAITH that God would, one way or another, make known the TRUTH as plain as "noon day".** And she would NOT be STONED: **saving God's Son,** because her "just" and "God-FEARING" husband would ACCEPT the TRUTH when it came. This was her FAITH because she had ACCEPTED God's WORD revealing his will and PURPOSE for her life.

**We should KNOW them that labor among us: and especially HUSBANDS and WIVES.** And NOT be quick to believe the WORSE about a person. **In this case what LOOKED like sin, was in fact an act of God.** The Lord has a way of setting up everything he's doing. And if we TRUST him like she and Joseph did, he'll reveal who's RIGHT and who's WRONG. **But today, the problem is that the Lord is revealing who's right and because SOME people to whom he's speaking don't RESPECT him, as they should, they DON'T KNOW the scriptures and therefore don't BELIEVE his TESTIMONY.** As lambs: baby sheep, they do NOT know his voice yet. But if they'll gain MORE RESPECT for him, they'll CRAVE the sincere milk of his WORD and grow thereby and be able to DISCERN both good and evil: **I Peter 2:1-2, Hebrews 5:12-14.**

**Matthew 1:21** says, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from THEIR sins."

**Jesus defined 2424, of Hebrew originally [3091]; i.e. Jehoshua** (Jesus is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew, Joshua, in scripture.) **Joshua defined 3091, Jehovah SAVED.** Jehovah is the name of Jesus' Father who was also known as "God Almighty": **Exodus 6:3.**

**God defined 2316, a deity, the SUPREME** (HIGHEST in RANK or AUTHORITY) **Divinity.**

**QUESTION:** How would the name Emmanuel, "God with us", be fulfilled by Jesus' birth?

**ANSWER:** All humans descending from Adam are born spiritually DEAD. The "WORD of GOD" received by Mary when the Holy Ghost overshadowed her conceived Jesus. **God is his Father. The energy in his spirit is of his Father: LIFE.** At about age 30 (**Luke 3:23**), God anointed him. God is NOT our Father's name. God is the POSITION in which he sits. BEFORE Jesus came to earth, he sat on his Father's right side as God the Son. **However, he came to earth, NOT as God, but a MAN (human being): it's a LOWER rank, MADE of a woman: Galatians 4:4. He was the same PERSON that once was HIGH in authority (GOD).** But because Jesus obeyed his Father in laying down his life, he sits there AGAIN today, NOW as God-man: with a name in AUTHORITY above ALL names: **Matthew 28:18, Philippians 2:8-11, Hebrews 1:8.**

As he worked in the earth, we learned that he was NOT doing the work himself, **but his Father (GOD) who lived in his spirit did the works: John 14:10.** Also **Acts 10:38** says, How God anointed Jesus... who went about DOING good, and healing... **for God was "with" him.** So, since God was always "WITH" him, God also was therefore "WITH" them. Emmanuel: **"GOD WITH US".**

**A. John 1:1,14,** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was WITH God, and the Word was God. And the Word WAS MADE FLESH (4561, a human being.), and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his GLORY, the GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN of the Father...

**B. Philippians 2:6-7,** Who being in the form of God (When he was "WITH" God the Father) ... **But MADE HIMSELF of no REPUTATION (2758, to make EMPTY, i.e. [fig.] to abase (lower, or REDUCE in RANK, office] neutralize.), and TOOK upon him the FORM of a servant...**

**C. Hebrews 2:6-9, 16-17,** ...what is man, that thou art mindful of him? **Thou madest him a little LOWER than the angels... But we see Jesus, who was MADE a LITTLE LOWER**

**than the angels...** he took NOT on him the nature of angels; **but he took on him the SEED of Abraham...** in ALL things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren...

**Matthew 1:24** *let's us know when Joseph woke up; he OBEYED the angel and took unto him HIS wife. Once again demonstrating the JOY and PEACE of the "JUST" living by his FAITH.*