



Rice Memorial MBC

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## **Emmanuel's Birth**

Definitions printed in **bold** letters are from  
**Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition,  
or **Roget's** Thesaurus – **December 20, 2009**

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

**Introduction:** There are some major **questions** that'll be answered as we thoroughly examine this week's scriptures and a number of related scriptures so we can discover the **truths** hidden by God **FOR us**: his children, and **revealed** by the Holy Spirit, our teacher. (John 14:26)

**Matthew 1:17-18**, So all the generations from Abraham to David are **fourteen** generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are **fourteen** generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto **Christ** are **fourteen** generations. (42 Generations; close to 2,000 years)

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.

**Espoused** defined **3423**,  **betroth** [to contract to any one, in order to a future marriage; to promise or pledge one to be the future spouse of another]; used of either sex].

**NOTE:** Once the arrangement to marry was entered into, there was a  **betrothal** that was more **binding** than the engagement in contemporary society. A man that was  **betrothed** to a woman, even though **not** yet married, was **exempted** from **military** service. (Deut. 20:7)

The  **betrothal** could be broken only by a legal transaction (in effect, a **divorce**), and the ground for such **termination** was **adultery** (See Deuteronomy 22:24). Betrothal lasted for about **twelve** months, during which the **home** was to be prepared by the **groom**, and the wedding **clothes** would be prepared by the **bride**. The bride's **family** would prepare **for** the wedding festivities.

**Source: The New Manners & Customs of Bible Times**

**Deuteronomy 22:23-24**, If a damsel that is a **virgin** be  **betrothed** unto an husband, and a **man** find her in the **city**, and **lie** with **her** ...ye shall bring them **both** out unto the **gate** of that city ...**stone** them with **stones** that they **die**; the damsel, because she **cried not**, being in the **city**; ...the man, because he hath **humbled (defile, ravish** [transport with joy]) his neighbour's **wife**: so thou shalt **put away** evil from among you.

**Matthew 1:19**, And **Joseph** her **husband**, being a **just (righteous.)** man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to **put (divorce, let go)** her away **privily (secretly)**.

**Thought 1.** Evidently, God gave Mary his **wisdom** to let him **reveal** the **truth** to Joseph. Therefore she had not even **tried** to **explain** to him how God's power **overshadowed** her, and by this means **impregnated** her with HIS Word (seed), and so, she was carrying **God's** Son.

**Luke 1:34-35**, Then said Mary unto the angel, **HOW** shall this be, seeing I **know not** a man? ...the angel answered ...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the **power** of the **Highest** shall **overshadow (envelope in a haze of brilliancy)** thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be BORN of thee shall be called the Son of **God**.

**1 Chronicles 17:11-13** (By Nathan, God said to David) ...when thy days be expired...

...I will raise up thy **SEED** after thee... **I will** be his **father**, and **he** shall be **MY son**...

**Matthew 1:20-21** ...while he **thought** on these things, behold, the **angel** of the Lord appeared unto 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**. ...she shall bring forth a **son**, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS (Jehoshua)**: for he shall **save** his people from their **sins**.

**NOTE:** The name **Yehoshua** in **Hebrew** means "**Yahweh is Salvation**," "**Yahweh delivers**" or "**Yahweh rescues**" from the Hebrew root **יָצַו**, "**to deliver**," "**to be liberated**," or "**to be victorious**". **Source: Wikipedia.com**

**Thought 1.** Notice, the **angel** showed up giving God's word and **truth** to Joseph. So, **dream** books are **NOT** needed by any person, especially in God's Kingdom. The truth is the **bible** is our primary **dream book**! We also need a good **dictionary**, preferably **Webster's**, and a book on the customs of the people during bible times. With these books and with the Holy Spirit, if the dream is not **clear**, **not** being **literal** as it was with Joseph, we can still **find out** the **meaning** of any dream given to us by God. But, it'll require **prayer** (talking with our Father and the Lord Jesus), **study** and **meditation**.

The main **REALITY** we must **understand** is when it comes to **dreams**, or **anything**, our Father is the source of all **TRUTH**. Jesus, his son, is "the way, the **truth**, and the life, and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of **truth**. That being the case, any **dream** from God will **show TRUTH**, literally or figuratively. And everything seen in the dream means something!

Often, we will see **symbolic** things, but they represent **real** things! So, if we **see** a man's finger or **hand**, after realizing it's a **dream** from our Father, the **hand** represents his **power**! (See Ex. 8:19, Dan. 5:5, Ez. 14:13, Lk. 11:20) It was also that way in the past! An easy symbol is a **snake**. We **know** that it represents **Satan**, his **spirits**, or his **children**! (See Ex. 7:12, Revelation 12:9, Numbers 21:8, Matthew 10:16; 23:29-33) And actually anytime in a **dream**, God shows an **animal**, **scripture** will tell you if it **represents** God's spirits and/or children; or Satan's spirits and/or children. Leviticus 11 describes the **clean animals** and the **unclean**. Remember, in **Acts 10:10-16**, **Peter** saw **unclean** animals in a trance that were made clean by God. Even the dictionary gives us truth, literal or figurative, about everyday life, **speech**, **all things** in **existence**, and **reality** in general.

**Matthew 1:22-23**, 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**.

**Thought 1.** From the scriptures, let's **examine** what is **meant**, rather than **assume** what it might mean. This means we must thoroughly study the scriptures! That's because, "**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for **doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness..." (2 Timothy 3:16)

So, if we're **honest**, and **LOVE the truth**, which is our "**first love**"; bringing about our salvation, (2 Thess. 2:10), we'll accept what the **scriptures** teach even though it may be **new** to us! And remember, since **all** scripture is from God, there are **no contradictions**! With that **truth** in mind, let's look at what the **scriptures** say about Jesus' birth.

**John 1:1-2, 14**, In the **beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was **God (deity)**. The same was in the beginning with God. (vs.14) And the **Word** was **made flesh (a human being)**, and **dwelt** among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the ONLY begotten (only-born) of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Thought 2.** Scripture did **not** say, "was made flesh **and** was still God". The Word was made a **human**; period! We shouldn't ADD to it! To do so is error. The **glory** he had on earth was **not** the **glory** of being **God** and **man**. It was the **glory** of being

the **only human BORN of God.** The first **Adam** was a **created son** of God.

**Luke 3:38** ...which was the son of **Adam**, which was the **son** of God.

This **last Adam** was **born** (a special **glory**) to him only! And while on earth, Jesus looked to **again** having his **first glory**: being "**God** the Son": in his **high** position!

**John 17:4-5**, I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, **glorify** thou me with thine own self with the **glory** which I **HAD** with thee before the world **was**. (In the **beginning**)

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22**, But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by **MAN** (*the first Adam*) **came death**, by **MAN** (*Jesus, the last Adam*) came also the **resurrection** of the dead.

**1 Corinthians 15:44-45**, There is a **natural body**, and there is a **spiritual body**. And so it is written, The first MAN Adam was made a living soul; the **last Adam** was made a **quickening (give life) spirit (superhuman, God)**.

**NOTE:** ...and so the apostle shows, that there is a spiritual, as well as an animal body; that as the first man's body, even before the fall, was an animal or natural one; the **last Adam's** body upon his **resurrection** is a spiritual and **life giving** one...

**Source:** searchgodsword.org, **The New John Gill Exposition of the Entire Bible**

**Thought 3.** And to help get a **good understanding**, we'll look at some more **witnesses**.

**Hebrews 2:6-7, 9**, But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is **MAN** (a human being.), that thou art mindful of him? Or the son of man, that thou visitest him? Thou madest him (**MAN, [Adam]**) a little **lower** than the **angels**

...But we see **Jesus (the last Adam)**, who was made a little **LOWER than the angels** (**he was made a human being**) for the suffering of **death**, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste **death** for every man.

**Philippians 2:7**, But **made** himself of **NO REPUTATION**...

**No defined 5013, to depress** (to press to a lower POSITION).

**Reputation defined 2758, to make empty** (containing nothing).

**Thought 4.** So, it's clear, Jesus who **was God (deity)**, and **with God**, changed FORMS to a **lower form** and **lower position** and was **born** a human, and was just like the first Adam! God's Son! But, he never ceased to be "in **essence**", the same **person** who once "**was God**" and "**with God**". As a **human**, he's in a **lower form!**

But now, since he's been raised, he is God (deity) "**again**": a **God-Man!**

**Acts 10:38**, How **God** anointed **Jesus** of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for (*because*) **God** was **WITH him**.

**John 14:10** ...the **Father** that **dwelleth IN me**, **HE** doeth the **works**.

**John 8:29**, And **he** that sent me is **WITH me**: the **Father** hath **not** left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

**John 5:18** ...the Jews sought the **more** to **KILL** him, because he **not** only had **broken** the **sabbath**, but said also that God was his Father, making himself **EQUAL** (like in nature) with God.

**CONCLUSION:** So, when Jesus was born, God was **WITH him**; fulfilling, **God with US**. Additionally, there are more points for meditation that make clear that while on the earth he was a 100% **human being** with **God's nature**; BUT **not** God (deity). They are as follows:  
(1) He **died** on the cross, spiritually and physically. **A God cannot die**.  
(2) He was **tempted like us**, yet without sin. **A God cannot be tempted.** (Jas 1:13)

**James 1:13** ...for **God cannot** be tempted with evil...

- (3) He had to be anointed to work on earth. **A God has no need to be anointed**.  
(4) **He** said that he was **not** God. "Mark 10:18 ...Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou **ME** good? there is **NONE** good but **ONE**, that is, **God**. (*saying, I'm not God*)

**Matthew 1:24-25**, Then Joseph being raised from **sleep** did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his **wife**: And **knew** her not **TILL** she had brought forth **her firstborn** son: and he called his **name** JESUS. (*Notice his reverence for God! See Pro. 14:2*)

**NOTE:** It is here stated that Joseph knew her not "**till**" she had brought forth a son. This implies that the **relationship** of Joseph to his wife Mary, **after** the birth of Christ, was altogether that of any **NORMAL husband and wife**. Indeed, how else should the other sons of Mary have been born? Matthew 13:55 gives the names of **four** of Jesus' **brothers** and even mentions his **sisters**. It is no refutation of these facts to **quibble** about other **possible** uses of the word "**till**" or the word "**brothers**"! The mere **fact** that a word **CAN** have other **meanings** does **not prove** that it **DOES have any other meaning** than the **obvious** and ordinary **meaning** implicit in the **terse** (*cleanly written*) language of Matthew's gospel. **Catholic** commentaries, and even the **footnotes** in their **New Testament**, cast **eager** reflections against the **ordinary** meaning of these passages; but, concerning all such insinuations against the **truth**, men need only to **remember** that God's word is not **vitiating** (*rendered defective and void*) by such **quibbles**.

**Source:** searchgodsword.org, **James Burton Coffman's Commentaries: New Testament**

**Thought 1.** Verse 25 would have read, "And **knew** her not; **even AFTER** she brought forth her first born son..." if "**till**" did not imply that after Jesus' birth, **Joseph** and **Mary** had a **normal** life as husband and wife: fulfilling their **conjugal: marital duties**.

**Matthew 13:54-56**, Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his **brethren**, **James** ...**Joses** ...**Simon**, and **Judas**? And his **sisters** ...?

**NOTE:** The **problem** of the identity of the four brothers and three sisters of Jesus, mentioned in this place, did not exist in ancient times. **Helvidius**, the most ancient commentator on this passage, said that they were all the CHILDREN of **Mary** and **Joseph**, born AFTER Jesus was born. It was only in ages **after** men had invented religious **doctrines** incompatible with the obvious truth of Matthew's words, that **ingenious** interpretations were **devised** to **relieve** the **embarrassment**. All such efforts fail in the **light** of the simple, **obvious**, and necessary meaning of Matthew 13:55, 56. The **truth** was **built** into the passage by the Holy Spirit and is **incapable** of **destruction**. As the noted Dr. Adam Clarke so ably expressed it, "Why should the children of ANOTHER family be brought in here to share the **reproach** which it is evident was designed for **Joseph** the carpenter, **Mary** his wife, and their son **Jesus**?"

**Cousins** or **lodge** brothers simply **do not fit** into the picture here at all, nor would their being pulled in have aided the reproach in any way. No, the reproach was directed at **Jesus** and his immediate family; those others named were his **LITERAL brothers** and **sisters**.

**Source:** searchgodsword.org, **James Burton Coffman's Commentaries: New Testament**

**Galatians 1:19** ...But other of the apostles saw I none, save **James** the Lord's **brother**.