

Matthew

Unknown if consultant checked

GOD PUT A CHILD IN MARY'S WOMB (1:18-25)

¹⁸ This story I will tell, Jesus Christ became a person (OR man). His mother Mary they gave (as) a promised one to Joseph. Joseph was waiting to take her to his camp. After that she became pregnant. God's Spirit put the child in her womb. After that they were telling a word to Joseph, "Mary is pregnant." ¹⁹ Joseph thought, "Mary has been sleeping with a man. I will not take her as my wife." Joseph was a good type. He did not want to make Mary ashamed in front of people. He thought he wanted to send her away without a growling.

²⁰ He was thinking hard. After that he had a dream. In the dream he saw an angel, God sent it to him. The angel said to him, "Joseph! you are from David's mob! Listen! Don't be upset about the woman Mary. God's Spirit gave her the child. Therefore you can (OR will OR should) take her as your wife. ²¹ She will have a male child. You will name him Jesus. People are habitual ignorers/disobeyers of God. Because they are like that God might send them away from him forever. Jesus will be a stand-in for them." Like that the angel spoke to Joseph.

²²⁻²³ A long time ago a man spoke a word from God. "A woman, she has never slept with a man,

will become pregnant. She will have a male child. They will name him Immanuel.” In the Jews' language that name means God is with us (all). After that when Jesus was born, they knew about that word, it was Jesus (himself).

²⁴ Joseph got up from sleep, he did what the angel said (lit 'at the angel's word'). He took Mary to his camp. They made those two husband and wife. ²⁵ After that those two did not sleep together. They were waiting for the child to be born. Joseph named that child Jesus.

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KNOWLEDGEABLE MEN FROM THE EAST SEARCHED FOR JESUS (2:1-12)

¹ At that time King Herod was boss for the people in that country, in Judea. Those people used to call themselves Jews. At that time Mary gave birth to Jesus in the town Bethlehem, in the country Judea.

When Jesus was born some foreign (OR strangers) men came from another country, from the east, to look for him. These men were knowledgeable about the stars. Truly they saw a new star in the sky. That particular (star) made them understand that an important boss had appeared for the Jews.

They arrived in Jerusalem. They were asking them, ² “Where is the male child, that boss, he will become king for you Jews? We saw his star in the east. When we saw it we knew an important boss has appeared, he has become a

really small child. We have come to see (him), to give him gifts.

³ As soon as (?) King Herod heard their talk, truly he became upset ('his stomach became bad'). All the people in Jerusalem also became upset. ⁴ Herod gathered together the leaders and the teachers of the Jews. "That important boss, God will send him, where will he be born (OR appear/become visible)?"

⁵ They replied to him, "Here he will be born, in the country Judea, in the town Bethlehem. A long time ago one of God's spokesmen wrote a word in a book, ⁶ 'People in Bethlehem, your camp is truly small (OR unimportant). God will send a truly important boss, he will be born in your camp. He will become boss for God's people. After that everyone will know about your camp.' In just that way he wrote the word from God."

⁷ Herod was wanting to learn when Jesus was born. After that he sent a word secretly for the strangers from the east to come. He asked them with deceit also, "When did that star appear?"

⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem. "Go to Bethlehem, search carefully for that child. After that return here, tell me where he is. After that I will go to him, I truly will see him, I will give him gifts also." Truly indeed he lied to them, he wanted to kill the child Jesus.

⁹ After that they kept going to Bethlehem. They saw that one particular star, it was going ahead of them. There it stood still right above the house which had the child. ¹⁰ When they saw the star they were happy. ¹¹ They entered the house.

Then they saw the child, his mother Mary was holding him. They knelt down to the child. They gave him gold and two (kinds of ?) gum also, those two smelled very good.

¹² After that God spoke to them in a dream. He told them not to return to Herod. After that they returned to their own country a different way.

HEROD TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO KILL JESUS (2:13-23)

¹³ In the night Joseph dreamed. An angel from God came to him. He said to him, “Herod will look for the child to kill him. Get up right now. Take the child and his mother, run away to another country, to Egypt. You (pl) remain there. Later I will tell you to return here.” In that way the angel spoke to him.

¹⁴ Joseph got up from sleep. He took the child, and his mother, they went in the night. They went right to Egypt. ^{15a} They were staying in that country while Herod was living.

¹⁶ Herod was waiting in vain for the men from the east. They did not return to him, they did not send a word to him about that camp in Bethlehem where Jesus was (lit. 'Jesus-having'). Then he became very angry. Previously he had asked the strangers from the east, “When did that star appear?” Now he is thinking to himself, “That star appeared maybe one year ago. I will kill all the children in Bethlehem under two years (lit. 'without two winters'), the ones having two years (winters) also, truly I will kill them all.”

Therefore he called his soldiers. “Listen! Go to Bethlehem. There kill all the boys under two

years, kill all the ones having two years also. You will not leave one alive.” Those soldiers did that, in accordance with Herod's word. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ After that the people in Bethlehem were really crying for their children.

A very long time ago one of God's spokesmen, who-was-it, Jeremiah, spoke a word, “In that country, where-is-it, in Ramah, there someone is crying very loudly. That woman of long ago, Rachel, she is crying, she is really crying for her children. Others took them. She is crying for them continually.” That Jeremiah wrote those words about Rachel in a book. Now in that same way truly those people in Bethlehem were crying hard for their children, like that.

¹⁹ After that Herod died. In Egypt Joseph saw an angel in a dream, God sent him. He said to him, “That man was wanting to kill Jesus, that one is dead. ²⁰ Get up. Take the child, his mother also, you (pl) return to your own country, to Israel.”

²¹ Joseph got up from sleep, returning he took the two of them to their own country, to Israel. ^{15b} A very long time ago another of God's spokesmen said, “God took his son from Egypt”. Later, after Jesus returned to his own country, people knew about that word from long ago, Jesus was the one that word talked about.

²² When he arrived in Israel Joseph heard a word, a son of Herod, what's-his-name, Archelaus, was boss of the people there, in the country Judea. Because of that Joseph was afraid to stay in that country. God spoke to him

in a dream, in accordance with that word he continued northwards, to the country Galilee.
²³ He became a local inhabitant in the town Nazareth. A long time ago God's spokesmen said about Jesus, "They will say about him, he is an inhabitant of lowly (a derogatory term) Nazareth."

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¹³⁻¹⁴ The gate to God's country is very narrow. Go through that one. The other gate is wide, and that one is to the big fire, and the road to that place is without problems. Many people go on that road. The gate that leads to God's country is narrow, and the road to that place is difficult. Only a few people find it.

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²⁶⁻³¹ People might kill your body.
 Don't be afraid of them. They can't kill your spirit.
 Fear only God. He can burn your spirit and body to ashes in the big fire.
 People cannot do that.
 Because of that do not be afraid of them.
 Your Father above knows of everything.
 He knows when a zebra finch falls to the ground.
 Truly he knows of you also.
 He knows the hair on your head.
 One by one, all of it.
 Because of that, stay without fear.
 God just thinks a bit about the zebra finch, he really thinks about you always.

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²⁸⁻³⁰ You who have big problems, come to me, I will make your problems small. Join me, we two will make it right...learn from me, for I am caring and humble...

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¹⁴ Jesus said to them, "I want the kids to come to me, do not stop them. They really love God, they really take notice of him. God's people should do exactly like that."

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