

JOSEPH, THE HUSBAND OF MARY

¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

Matthew 1:19-24

I. A history of prophetic knots to be untied / Prophecy in principle!

A. He would be born of the seed of the woman. That’s in Genesis 3:15.

¹⁵ *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

B. He would be a descendant of Shem. That’s in Genesis 9:26.

²⁶ *He also said, “Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem.*

C. He would be of the seed of Abraham. That’s in Genesis 12:1-3.

¹ *The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. ² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

D. He would be a descendant of Isaac. That’s in Genesis 22:18.

¹⁸ *“and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”*

E. He would be a descendant of Jacob. That’s in Genesis 28:14.

¹⁴ *Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring.*

F. He would be of the tribe of Judah. That's in Genesis 49:10.

¹⁰ The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

G. He would be a "son of David." That's in 2 Samuel 7:11,12,16.

¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. "The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ... ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'"

H. He would be born of a virgin. That's in Isaiah 7:14.

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

I. He would be born in Bethlehem. That's in Micah 5:2.

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

We can summarize in five simple statements what the Jewish scholars knew about the Messiah:

1. He will be a Jew.
2. He will come from the tribe of Judah.
3. He will be a descendant of David.
4. He will be born in Bethlehem.
5. He will be born of a virgin.

II. God's fulfillments are always greater than his promises / Prophecy in practice!

- A. Joseph was a humble man willing to be misunderstood his entire life.
- B. Nothing Joseph expected or anticipated would ever happen in his life.
- C. It is from the wreckage of our greatest hurts that God often builds for us the greatest of blessings.

- D. When God moves, conventional wisdom is meaningless. Joseph was made to ponder an impossible knot: to stone or divorce Mary (Deuteronomy 22:20-22; Deuteronomy 24:1). God said neither!
- E. There are critical junctions and pivotal points in life when nothing makes sense. Human incoherence should never be a deterrent to obedience.
- F. Because of Joseph's self-control, the doctrine of the virgin birth was made possible. There's more at stake in your obedience than you realize.
- G. God's ways may go beyond reason, but never against reason.