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## Joseph’s Dream

## “Bible Notes” – A Summary Study Guide

Three months pregnant, Mary would have already gone through her bout with morning sickness and knew she was indeed pregnant. Mary left Hebron and returned to the village of Nazareth. Then Joseph learned that she was pregnant before they had consummated their marriage. He did not understand that the child inside Mary was of the Holy Ghost.

Being a righteous and just man, Joseph did not want to make Mary a public example and he planned to put her away privately until she had her baby, and then stop the wedding. [In flashback, after years of hard work and saving, Joseph would have paid the required mohar, fifty shekels of silver, to his wife-to-be’s family to seal the agreement of acquiring a virgin bride. But now according to the Law of Moses (Deuteronomy 22:23-24), an unmarried or engaged pregnant woman must be stoned to death to erase this sin from the nation of Israel.]

But while Joseph thought about Mary’s condition, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying “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 Ghost. She will have a Son and you are to give Him the name JESUS because He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20-21).

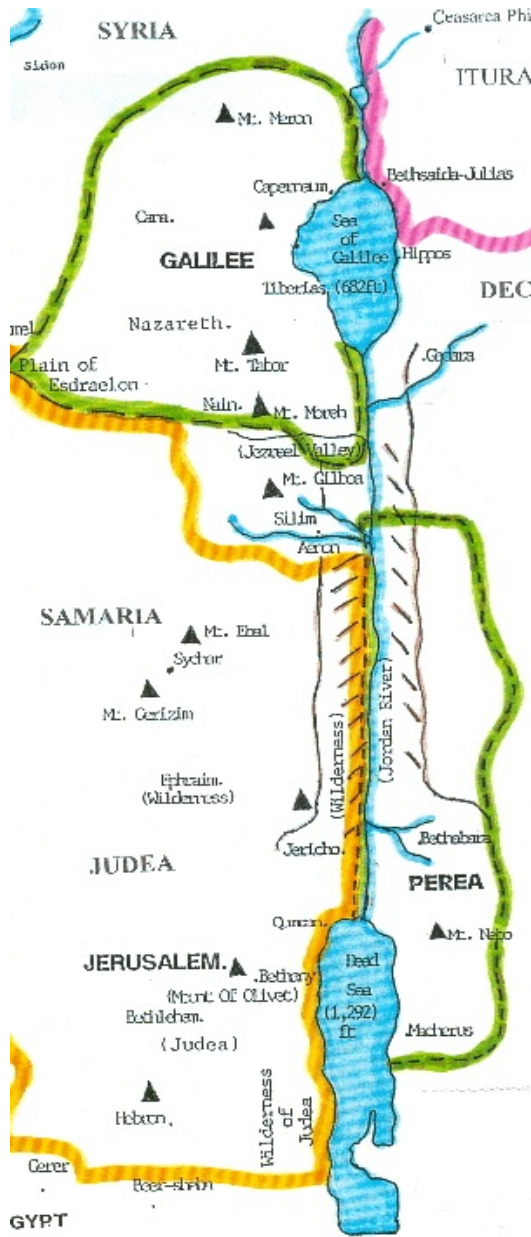
Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us” (vv.22-23; Isaiah 7:14).

So Joseph rose from his sleep to do as the angel of the Lord had told him. He married Mary. But Joseph would not consummate their marriage until after Mary had given birth to her firstborn Son and named Him Jesus.

**Sermon#7,  
Biblical Scriptures:**

*Gospel of Matthew* - Chapter 1.  
18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this order; When as his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they came together [sexually], she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not will to make her a public example, planned to put her away privately 20. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Joseph, you son of David, fear not to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is on the Holy Ghost. 21. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call his name JESUS, for he shall save his people from their sins. 22. Now all this was done, that it might would be fulfilled which was spoken of by the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23. "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. 24. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the lord had told him, and took to him Mary as his wife. 25. But Joseph wouldn't knew her [sexually] until Mary had brought forth her firstborn son, and he called his name JESUS.

*Gospel of Luke* - Chapter 1.  
56. And Mary stayed with Elisabeth about three months, and returned to her own house.



## Joseph’s Dream

## [Jesus, The Promised Messiah]

Following the infant John’s circumcision, Mary realized she had to return to Joseph, her fiancée, at Nazareth. Over the past three months many changes had occurred within her body, including “morning sickness,” and she finally realized that she was indeed pregnant.

Most likely, Zacharias put Mary on a donkey and sent servants to help her return home. After bidding a fond farewell to her older cousins, the young Virgin Mary left the city of Hebron and made the long journey back to Nazareth. After several days, she quietly returned to Galilee and Joseph. Appearing back in Galilee would have been extremely dangerous since she was unmarried.

At home, Joseph, a just and righteous man, came to see Mary. When he learned of Mary’s condition, Joseph wanted to prevent her pregnancy from being turned into a public mockery. He decided to hide her somewhere to conceal her assumed shame. (If a man accused his bride to be of not being a virgin, in Mary’s case her pregnancy, the girl would be stoned to death for her unlawful behavior of having pre-marital sex.<sup>32</sup>) In Joseph’s mind the marriage had ended as he left Mary.

Disappointed, Joseph returned home. But while he slept, an angel of the Lord God appeared to him in a dream. He stated, “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. 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.” (Matthew 1:20,21)

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet Isaiah: “Behold, a virgin (a damsel) shall be wit child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”<sup>33</sup> (Matthew 1:23) So Joseph woke from his sleep and rushed to tell Mary the good news. (To deter further acts of free love or fornication among couples that were engaged, Joseph probably endured a public lashing.)

Shortly after, the nightly wedding ceremony was begun. Joseph was dressed in a white tunic as he stood beneath a canopy followed by a host of other males. Moments later, a veiled Mary appeared, wearing fine clothing, jewelry and a headband that had ten pieces of silver dangling from it. (This headpiece, like the modern wedding ring, was highly prized.) Accompanied by a large escort of her friends, Mary joined Joseph under the canopy. Minstrels played as the two gathered together. With everyone assembled, the local rabbi began the wedding ceremony. The goblets of problems and joy were drunk. Toward the end of the ceremony, Joseph gave the payment coin, later translated into a ring, to his bride Mary.

Following the ceremony, rice and nuts of fertility showered Joseph and Mary as the guests expressed hopes that the marriage couple would be, “fruitful and multiply.” Then, the wedding party was ushered out to the groom’s new house for a reception. Everyone’s fingers of the right hand touched the mezuzah upon entering the home. Traditional singing from the Psalms filled the house. Revelry began as the bride and groom danced alone. Afterwards, the dance became strictly for males. Mary recited love poems while the minstrels played vigorously.




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<sup>32</sup> Deuteronomy 22:23-24.

<sup>33</sup> Isaiah 7:14.

Upon arriving at the home, guests ritually removed their sandals to first wash their feet and then cleanse their hands at the doorway with water from very large stone jugs. Great feasting and drinking of wine highlighted the joyous celebration, which often lasted a week.

Once the festivities had been completed, Joseph and Mary were finally left alone in their new home. Joseph would not consummate their marriage, however, until Mary had brought forth her firstborn son whom she named **JESUS**. With each passing month, Mary's pregnancy blossomed. The new couple now basked in the fact that the "Christ" was finally coming to earth.