

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 28

## “The Birth of Jesus Christ Was On This Wise”

(Matthew 1:18)

From the very first verse in the New Testament, “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ” (Matthew 1:1), to the last verse of the New Testament, “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Revelation 22:21), the focus is on Jesus Christ.

Matthew presents Christ as King, while Mark presents Him as a servant. These two positions are totally opposite to one another. Luke presents Christ as man and John presents Him as God. Once again, these two focuses are completely opposite to one another.

**In Matthew** Christ’s genealogy, (verses 1-16), reveals proof-positive that if Israel had kings at that time Christ had the legal right to claim the throne of Israel.

**Mark** presents Christ as a servant and therefore there is no genealogy recorded.

**Luke** presents Christ as a man and therefore, the genealogy listed in Luke 3:23-38, takes Christ back to Adam (Luke 3:38).

**John** presents Christ as God and therefore simply begins with “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

### In a previous article we have discussed, Two Books,

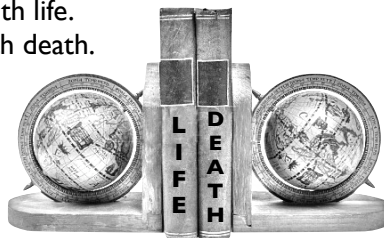
- **Matthew 1:1**, dealing with life.
- **Genesis 5:1**, dealing with death.

### Two Sons, Matthew 1:1,

- The son of David
- The son of Abraham

### Four Women,

- **Tamar** - (Matthew 1:3).
- **Rahab** - (Matthew 1:5).



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“Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

It is a wonderful thing that Christ came into this world to save sinners it is important to remember that He did not begin to live at that time. He is Eternal. There was never a time when Christ did not exist.

#### **Colossians 1:17,**

“He is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

#### **Colossians 1:16,**

“By him were all things created.”

Whenever we see the phrase “LORD God” in the Old Testament it refers to Christ. This phrase occurs over 500 times.

#### **John 8:58,**

“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”

#### **Psalms 90:2,**

“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”



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- **Ruth** - (Matthew 1:5).
- **Bathsheba** - (Matthew 1:6).

**In this article we will consider,**



**Four Dreams,**

- **Joseph's dream** as recorded in Matthew 1:20,21.
- **Joseph's dream** recorded in Matthew 2:13.
- **Joseph's dream** recorded in Matthew 2:19,20.
- **Joseph's dream** recorded in Matthew 2:22,23.

#### **Dream Number 1, Matthew 1:20,21,**

*"But 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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."*

**The first thing recorded for our learning is that Joseph "thought on these things."** The Greek word translated "thought" in this verse is *enthymeomai*. It is only used three times in the book of Matthew and always in a negative sense. The word means that Joseph was thinking **this is not right!** In Acts 10:19 God told Peter to eat food that he had been taught all his life not to eat. Peter's thinking was also **this is not right!**

The Greek word translated "thought" in these verses also refers to a type of thinking that is void of emotionalism. It is a rational type of thinking. Proverbs 23:7 says, *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."* Joseph was not thinking with his mind, will, or emotions, he was thinking with his heart. Both of these men of God determined the will of God for their lives even though in their minds-eye it did not seem right at the time.

#### **Dream Number 2, Matthew 2:13,**

*"And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."*

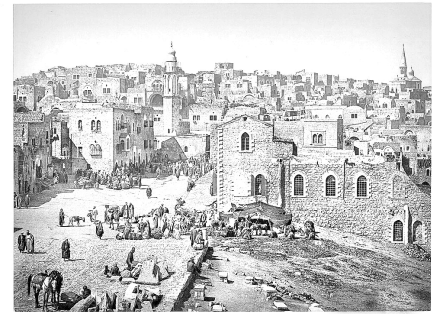


After the wise men left, Joseph had another dream directing him to take the young child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Once again, we see an immediate obedience to the will of God. Joseph had a God-given responsibility to care for the Christ-child, and to care for Mary. There was no question about who will take care of the carpenter's shop at Nazareth.

There is no complaint from Mary about making yet another treacherous 100 mile trip. There is no apparent worry about how they will have their needs met. We read, *"He took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt"* (v.13).

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## **"Thou Bethlehem"**



*"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."*

(Micah 5:2)

The verse above refers to Bethlehem literally being too small to be considered among the possessions of Judah. Each tribe was divided into its thousands, probably of fighting men, each thousand having its own separate head. If a town was too small several towns would go together to make up its thousand. Bethlehem was so insignificant that it was not even considered important enough to join in with other places. In the division under Joshua, it was completely omitted. Historians tell us that at the time of Christ's birth it was a den of thieves.

#### **Matthew 2:6,**

*"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."*

So far this year, 1.4 million tourists have visited Bethlehem and another 90,000 are expected during the Christmas season. Bethlehem's 2,750 hotel rooms are booked solid for Christmas week and four more hotels are under construction.

## **Bethlehem Today**





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**Dream Number 3, Matthew 2:19,20,**

*“But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.”*

In verse one we read, **“Herod was king.”** Eighteen short verses later we read, **“Herod was dead.”** Every tombstone is a reminder that life is simply a short dash between two dates.

**Hebrews 9:27** says, *“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*

Once again Joseph receives directions and once again he immediately obeys. we read,

**Matthew 2:21,**

*“And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.”*

It is interesting to note that every time the order concerning Christ and Mary we see that Christ is always mentioned first. It is also important to note that the wise men worshiped Christ, not Mary.

- **Matthew 2:11,**  
• *“The young child with Mary his mother.”*
- **Matthew 2:13,**  
• *“The young child and his mother.”*
- **Matthew 2:14,**  
• *“The young child and his mother.”*
- **Matthew 2:20,**  
• *“The young child and his mother.”*
- **Matthew 2:21,**  
• *“The young child and his mother.”*

**Joseph’s dream recorded in Matthew 2:22,23,**

*“But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth.”*

According to historians Archelaus had recently slaughtered 3000 Jews and Joseph and his family were not about to be numbered among them. Joseph took *“the young child and his mother”* to Nazareth.

**Three Generations**

**Matthew 1:17,**

*“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.”*

**From Abraham To David**

This is the period of the patriarchs including Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, the judges and others. It represents a tremendous period of heroism when Israel was made famous as a nation!

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**“God Shall Give Unto Him The Throne”**



*“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.”*  
(Luke 1:32)

**Christ didn’t have any Kingdom when He was on earth.** They crucified Him and He left, He went back to Heaven; however the story does not end there. God will give Him the throne of His father David, there will be a Kingdom under His control for 1000 years. The Bible tells us He will reign with a rod of iron. Christ is going to have His Kingdom.

Revelation 19 tells us that He's going to come as King of kings and Lord of lords. When He came the first time he came as *“The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29). When He returns He will come as *“The Lion of the tribe of Judah”* (Revelation 5:5).

**The disposition of a lamb and a lion are very different.** As a lion He will destroy, all the ungodly in the holocaust of Armageddon. He will establish His earthly reign.

Our Lord didn't have a Kingdom when He was on earth; however, the story doesn't end there.

Christ will have His Kingdom!

**Matthew 6:10**

*“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”*



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### From David To Babylon

The second period one of decline for Israel when the nation became dominated mostly by wicked kings. The government, the religious crowd and the homes of the people for the most part, were anti-God. As a result Israel would end up in bondage to her enemies.

### From Babylon To Christ

The third generation begins with Israel in bondage in Babylon and ends with the nation under bondage under Rome. There is nothing significant about this period of about 600 years. Men such as Abiud, Eliakim, Azor, Sadoc, Achim, Eliud, Eleazar, Matthan, and Jacob are mentioned in the genealogy in Matthew chapter one; however, all we know about them is their names.

It is with this background that we read the amazing words, **“Now the birth of Jesus Christ.”** What absolute grace!

### Matthew 1:18-25,

*“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.*

*19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.*

*20 But 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.*

*21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

*22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of 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 bidden him, and took unto him his wife:*

*25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.”*

### “She Was Found With Child”

Mary was a young teenager. She had been away for several months and when she came home she was expecting a child. No doubt Joseph was totally devastated. Due to his tremendous love for Mary he decided to have her put away “privately.” He had two choices. One she could be stoned to death, second, he could divorce her.

The angel of the Lord revealed what was happening and Joseph immediately accepted his roll in the plan of God.

We read,

**“Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him”** (v.24).



**C. H. Spurgeon**

*“Bethlehem and Golgotha, the Manger and the Cross, the birth and the death, must always be seen together.”*



**A. W. Tozer**

*“Christ is God shining through the personality of a man, and shining unhindered. His sacred humanity does not veil His divine beauty in any degree.”*



### “Backgrounder To His Birth”

Audio Message

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