

JOSEPH & MIRACLES MT. 1:18-25

What do we know?

1. Joseph believed God worked → even miraculously

This text doesn't state this.

The entire Bible would assume this.

The very nature of becoming & being a believer demands this!

Genesis 1:1 IN the beginning **God** created the heaven and the earth.

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: For I am God, and there is none else.

2. Joseph believed God worked in answer to prayer!

Jeremiah 33:1 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, **while** he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying, **Jeremiah 33:2** Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name;

Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Psalm 50:15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalm 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: And he shall hear my voice.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: **Matthew 7:8** For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, **Ephesians 3:21** Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

3. Joseph also knew what a miracle was and wasn't!

Matthew 1:18 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.

Matthew 1:19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Joseph didn't have a Ph. D. in biology

Joseph didn't know about DNA or chromosomes.

Joseph wasn't an expert in human anatomy

But he understood enough...

- Mary
- Pregnant
- Not by me
- Virgin birth not on the table → not thinking "miracle"
- Divorce
- Divorce quietly & privately

Christians struggle mightily with miracles and the miraculous:

←----->

Everything is a miracle

No miracles

Some of our problem is our very American problem with hyperbole, overstatement, effusive speaking....

4. Joseph wasn't expecting a miracle!

Matthew 1:18 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. **Matthew 1:19** **Then Joseph** her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

Luke 1:26 And in the sixth month **the angel Gabriel** was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, **Luke 1:27** **To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.** **Luke 1:28** And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

Luke 1:29 **And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.**

Luke 1:30 And **the angel** said unto her, **Fear not, Mary:** for thou hast found favour with God. **Luke 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. **Luke 1:32** 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 1:33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:34 **Then** said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?** **Luke 1:35** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. **Luke 1:36** **And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth,** she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, **who was called barren.** **Luke 1:37** For with God nothing shall be impossible. **Luke 1:38** And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

5. Joseph was forced / persuaded to accept this miracle!

Matthew 1:20 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. **Matthew 1:21** And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. **Matthew 1:22** Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Matthew 1:23** 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.

Thoughts:

- **The angel of the Lord**
- **Sui generis → one of a kind**
- **Not expecting a miracle!!! (1:25)**

Matthew 1:24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

Matthew 1:25 **And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn (πρωτότοκον) son:** and he called his name JESUS.

The other children would come via a normal process

- **Messianic expectation (1:21)**

Luke 2:25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was **Simeon**; and the same man was just and devout, **waiting for the consolation of Israel:** and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

Luke 2:36 And there was one **Anna...** **Luke 2:38** And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, **and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.**

- **Biblical prophecy**

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Matthew 1:23** 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.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; **Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel.**