

# “Keep Christ in Christmas”

## **Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV1984)**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

## **The Virgin Birth**

## **Isaiah 9:6 (NIV1984)**

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## **Isaiah 7:14 (NIV1984)**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.  
Which means God with us.

## **Matthew 1:18 (NIV1984)**

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

**Why is the virgin birth so important?**

**Without the virgin birth, Jesus is not God.**

**It changes our view of scripture.**

**It changes our worldview.**

**It changes our view of Jesus.**

**But how do we know it is true?**

**The Testimony of Scripture**

**Matthew 1:22-23** <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

**The Testimony of Joseph (V. 19)**

**Jewish Wedding Had Three Stages:**

**The Contractual Stage** parents got to pick who their son or daughter married, often at birth or when they were very young.

**The Betrothal Stage** a time when the bride was surrounded by the family and she was protected.

“Keep Christ in Christmas”

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**The Marriage Stage** when Joseph would come to Mary and they had the ceremony and afterward they would consummate the marriage.

### **The Testimony of the Angel (v. 20-23)**

#### **V. 20-21**

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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.”

Jesus had **a supernatural** birth:

He had an EARTHLY **MOTHER**,  
but not an EARTHLY **FATHER**.

He had a HEAVENLY **FATHER**,  
but not a HEAVENLY **MOTHER**.

### **The Testimony of History**

#### **V. 24-25**

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.