

## To Put Her Away Privily

### Matthew 1:16 – 25

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~ Our Spiritual Safari begins this report with the end of a remarkable genealogy; one that we have followed closely and is a clear stream of truth and righteousness leading us to Christ! As we saw in our last report, this is one of the more interesting genealogies we have in the Bible; and The Bible has a LOT of lengthy genealogies. Well, this one ends with the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Remember, Jesus saith, “I am the Alpha and the Omega!” ~

***16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.***

~ We must note the break in our movement through Matthew here. It began when Abraham begat Isaac. From there it was just nothing but begetting. Well, then, verse sixteen should logically read: Jacob begat Joseph and Joseph begat Jesus – except that’s not the way it happened; so it doesn’t read that way. Matthew makes it painfully clear here that Joseph was the husband of Mary – but not the father of Jesus. So, let’s take the rest of this report to examine some remarkable Old Testament prophecy, shall we? Both Luke and Matthew state emphatically that Jesus was virgin born. When we reach the Gospel of Luke we are going to get a real education in obstetrics. One can deny the virgin birth - that’s their business - and a matter for them to take up with God; however, there will be no denying the virgin birth in this Spiritual Safari because you cannot deny that the Word of God teaches, as plain as day, the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The only Jesus Christ this world has any record of or any knowledge about is a Jesus Who was virgin born. It’s easy to sit back in a recliner in some stuffy library of the local theological seminary, two thousand years removed, and write meaningless conjecture about your puny thinking. It’s also perfect nonsense. I have seen an entire thesis that denies the virgin birth! It was a seemingly profound and cogent polemic. Well, I’m here to

tell you that what they have in that thesis is equal to *Gone with the Wind* or *Grapes of Wrath*, two very well-selling books of fiction. The only real difference is the thesis doesn't read easy. Protest by rationalization concludes its summary of the virgin birth with the statement, "...it just couldn't happen." Men believed at one time we could never reach the moon; but we've gone much further - using the natural laws of God. Well, the Word of God said it happened this way so I'm just going with that. However, since my stubbornness is not satisfactory to most people, let's examine the irrefutable explanation:

***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.***

~ We examined the genealogy and the probable gaps within it in our last report. Now we know why – because Matthew wanted to give three equal examples of fourteen generations to make this connection. Mankind has inhabited this earth so much longer than we can even contemplate, friends. We don't go into that type of thing in this expedition and we didn't even address it in Genesis because we will never arrive at a satisfactory solution and there will never be a unanimous consensus regarding dating the generations of the Bible – impossible. The most like-minded conservative scholars in the faith disagree in this matter of genealogy dating. So, let's let Matthew explain what he meant when he says Joseph is not the father of Jesus....

***18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.***

***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.***

~ The Mosaic Law was very clear that when a woman was unfaithful to her husband she was to be stoned to death; this was how God instructed Israel to put away evil from amongst them. Joseph is a remarkable man here in

this account. We hear too much about Mary, frankly, and not nearly enough about Joseph. Mary was a remarkable woman, to be sure; but how many men would have this woman up against the stoning wall within five minutes of finding this out? Most men would want some justification and most men would have made Mary a public example. I am absolutely sure Joseph thought there was no way Mary had not been unfaithful to him....

***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.***

~ Without the Angel of the Lord appearing to Joseph and making it clear to him what was going on – well, I am not prepared to say what would have happened next. I don't think it takes a whole lot of imagination. Dr. Luke is going to connect our dots and straighten this entire problem out for us but, actually, we're just not ready for it yet. We need a whole lot more Bible study before we get to that. Joseph was not the father of Jesus. Mary was not unfaithful to Joseph. Jesus is not illegitimate; but a woman encompassing a man is brand new to us in the Word of God. The Spirit of God isn't nearly done with this subject; but we are just going to have to take it all on faith for the moment....

***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,***

~ The name Jesus means Savior and He was given that name because He shall save His people from their sins. If Matthew is going to appeal to Israel then this One must be THE One that fulfills Old Testament prophecy; or Matthew has no credibility with his subjects. There are more than three hundred prophecies in the Bible concerning the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone we can turn to has been literally fulfilled. I do not know how many prophecies are in Matthew; however, Matthew quotes more from the Old Testament than all of the other three Gospel accounts

combined! Matthew makes no attempt to give a life of Christ as he records the accounts that he does. He does reveal that this is fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy concerning Him when he says it was to be fulfilled that 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.***

~ Here we have the Christmas message. The liberal always denies that the Bible teaches the virgin birth. Most of the modern versions of the Bible are produced to support the agenda of the liberal, by the way. I know that sounds suspicious; I am a suspicious person, to be sure. See, I know this because one of the key indicators is that they deny the virgin birth of Jesus. Their problem is that Matthew is quoting from Isaiah chapter seven at verse fourteen: "...therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Interestingly, revisionists use the term "...a young woman shall conceive and bear a son...." Friends, if you substitute that term it's not a sign – it's not a prophecy – it's an everyday occurrence that a young woman has a child; but a virgin bearing a son is not an everyday thing. Well, that's the way the liberal has translated it to tone it down from being born of a virgin. So, we can look at the word for "virgin." "Virgin" in Hebrew is: "almah." In Greek: "parthenos." What the liberal did was turn to Gesenius, a Hebrew scholar who has an exhaustive Hebrew lexicon that is exhausting just to look at when it's closed, let alone open. Gesenius conceded the common translation was "virgin" but he compromised by saying it could be used as "young woman." The only reason he said that is because he also rejected the miraculous; and for a virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ to happen - it would have had to have been a miracle. So, he altered his tune midstream for a custom fit – nothing else. I reject it flatly as a theological compromise – that means: it's a lie. Many people hold to this error - but we have some evidence to look at that might enlighten us.

Let's look back at Ahaz on the throne. Ahaz was a man very far from God. He is listed as a bad king because that's exactly what he was. Well, God sent

Isaiah to bear a message to Ahaz so long ago but Ahaz wouldn't listen to some old, crazy, wild-eyed prophet. Well, over in the seventh chapter of his prophecy we find King Ahaz asking God for a sign and, lo and behold, old Isaiah was sent to Ahaz to bear this message that he writes at verse ten, "...moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD." Ahaz's refusal to ask of God is pious hypocrisy, friends, and nothing else. We have that filling the pews every Sunday morning as these absolute hypocrites say, "...oh, I wouldn't ask for a sign." God said, verse fourteen, "therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." Now, if that meant "...young woman" then this prophecy was no sign; but that is neither the meaning nor intent.

Just to be absolutely sure, for the person who thinks maybe it could be translated "young woman," the word "almah" appears several times throughout and every single time it means "virgin." Remember, Rebekah, who was given to Isaac, had a description given that she had known no man – a virgin - and this is the word that was used. If any other word had been used it would have meant "prostitute" or "harlot" because that's all the terminology they had for women. I would hate to be some of these present-day theologians when they come into the presence of God someday when they have called Him everything except for what is correct; friends, we're going to witness a whole bunch of people bowing at the Throne begging to take back everything they ever said in their lives about the Lord Jesus. Just trust me here: it's not going to be a pretty picture.

You may still disagree – you have a right to be wrong – but there can be no mistaking that the Bible teaches "virgin" – so, let's swing by the Septuagint for a quick triple check. Remember, we looked at what the Septuagint was: a translation of the Scriptures by six members from each tribe of the nation Israel from Hebrew to Greek. They used the Greek word "parthenos." That word does not mean "young woman" in Greek – it means virgin. Athena was the virgin goddess of Athens, and her place of worship is called the Parthenon, meaning, place of the virgin. I can't make it any more clear what the words mean or what the Bible says about this. The only thing that's not clear is what the liberal means when he denies the virgin birth. There is but

one conclusion to this matter and I intend to be overly bearing, overly emphatic and thoroughly dogmatic with no tolerance or acceptance of counter reasoning.

Let's look again at verse twenty-three. Uh-oh! That is a problem! In the Bible, Jesus was never called Emmanuel. Here, in verse twenty-three it says Jesus was to be called Emmanuel. Emmanuel means, "God is with us." He cannot be Emmanuel, God with us – unless He is virgin born. There's no other way. Further, if He isn't Emmanuel then He can't be Jesus! The reason they called Him Jesus the Savior is because He was God that was with them! If that does not nail airtight the thinking of the virgin birth I can only suggest you close the Bible and go fishing – or something. We're seeing Jesus now in our Spiritual Safari, He Who was made a little lower than the angels because of the suffering of death; crowned with glory and honor. Jesus Christ, by the glory of God, should taste of death for every man! He had to be perfect to be that sacrifice. He had to be virgin born. You and I can't die for the sins of the world – nor for our own – but Christ could - and He did....

***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 ~***

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