NAME HIM JESUS

Matthew 1:21 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.

Review: The Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb

John 1:29b the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

The Lord: Jesus is both Master and God in human flesh.

Christ: The Anointed One, the promised Messiah; King (descended from David) Priest (after the order of Melchizedek) and Prophet (like unto Moses)

Setting

Zechariah has been told by the angel Gabriel in the Holy Place in the Temple that his 60-year-old wife Elizabeth, who has been unable to conceive, is going to have a son who will be the forerunner of the Messiah. Luke 1:8-20

Mary has been told that she will be the virgin mother of the Messiah, and after being told that Elizabeth is now in her sixth month of pregnancy, goes to visit her and Elizabeth confirms to Mary that she is to be the mother of the Messiah.

Mary returns to Nazareth before John (the Baptist) is born. Sometime after that it becomes obvious that Mary is pregnant.

Joseph’s Response

Matthew 1:18&19 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

“Pledged to be married” or “betrothed” means that there had been a legal ceremony that in the eyes of the law made them husband and wife, but they had not yet come together as husband and wife.

“Faithful to the law” is literally “righteous” or “just” which in this context would mean someone who was keeping the law to the best of their ability.

The Dream

Matthew 1:20 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.”

Matthew 1:1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Matthew 21:9a The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”

The most correct way to finish the “betrothal” was a marriage ceremony conducted by a rabbi. The less correct way was a marriage ceremony conducted by a secular official. And although it was frowned upon, it was not immoral for the couple to just start living together since they were already legally married.

“Because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” told Joseph Mary had not been unfaithful and that the child would be incredibly special.

Matthew 1:21 “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.”

Luke 1:31 “You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”

*“Iesous”* is the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew name “Joshua,” which means *“Yahweh is salvation,”* spelled *“Yehoshua”* in Hebrew. Hebrews 4:8 “For if Joshua *(‘iesous’)* had given them rest.” It was a very common name.

Luke 2:11 “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

He Will Save His People from Their Sins

The word translated “save” can mean rescue, heal, or deliver. The angel is very specific that this One will save His people from their **sins**.

Forgiveness, saved from the eternal consequence of sins: Acts 13:38&39(NKJV) “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”

Romans 4:4&5 Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

Romans 4:6-8 David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

Sanctification: saved from the power of sin: Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.

“Done away with” translates *“katargeo,”* to reduce to inactivity. Both the NIV and NASB render it “be rendered powerless” in the margin. We all still have a sin nature, but it cannot control us unless we choose not to walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

In heaven we will be saved from even the presence of sin, in ourselves and in others. I John 3:2&3 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Rest of the Story

Matthew 1:22&23 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means” God with us”).

Matthew 1:24&25 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Mark 6:3 “Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

Luke 1:46 And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

Things to Remember

Joseph was a godly man who did what God said, even when it made him look bad.

Jesus was given that name because He came to save His people from their sins. That includes:

Forgiveness, saved from the eternal consequences of sin.

Sanctification, saved from the power of sin.

And in heaven being saved from even the presence of sin.

Jesus is also Immanuel, God with us.

After Jesus was born Mary and Joseph had a normal marriage, and at least six children. Mary is to be honored as a godly woman, but she was a sinner like all the rest of us, and she also needed a Savior.