

## From the View of the Carpenter

### FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) Our God has eternal purposes. Nothing catches Him by surprise.
- 2) Do I believe in a God who not only is capable of intervening in His own creation, but also planned, before the foundations of the world, to be personally involved in my life?
- 3) God's activity in our lives leads to actions...actions which may not always be of our choosing or what we think is best, at first.
- 4) After the marriage covenant was established, the groom left his bride at her home and returned to his father's house, where he remained separated from his bride. During this period of separation, the groom prepared a dwelling place for his bride-to-be. If the one-year waiting period demonstrated the purity of the bride, the husband would then go to the house of the bride's parents and in a grand processional march lead his bride back to his home.
- 5) 1:18 Joseph and Mary had experienced no sexual contact with each other. When Mary is found to be pregnant, Joseph assumes she has been unfaithful.
- 6) Jesus had to have one human parent or He could not have been human. But He also had to have divine parentage or He could not have made a sinless and perfect sacrifice on our behalf.
- 7) As fully God, Jesus could pay the penalty for our sins, which finite humanity could not. As fully human he can understand our weakness and had been tempted as we are tempted.
- 8) 1:19 Joseph demonstrated his love for Mary in his actions. He chose not to publicly humiliate her. Instead he decided to divorce her. He has been shamed (if what he assumes is true).
- 9) 1:20 God is not forcing Joseph to do anything. He is inviting him to join him in His work. God is revealing the plan of the ages, so magnificent that even Angels long to understand it.

10) 1:21 The basic meaning of Jesus' name is "Jehovah (Yahweh) will save." All others who had this name testified to the Lord's ability to save. But this one will Himself be the salvation by His own work.

11) 1:21 This is the fundamental purpose of Jesus' coming. To Joseph, "his people" would be the Jews. As the Gospel unfolds, we see these words come to refer to "Messiah's people."

12) 1:23 "Emmanuel" was his name in the sense that all that was involved in that name found its fulfillment in Him. In Jesus none less than God came right where we are

13) Not only would he be able to take Mary as his wife with honor, but he is given care of God's Son. It is inconceivable that God would trust His Son into a family where the father was not totally committed and faithful to Him.

14) 1:24 As soon as Joseph woke from this dream, he obeyed. He violated all custom, and immediately took Mary into his home rather than wait until the one-year time period of betrothal had passed. There would be gossip in the community now, but Joseph knew the true story...and God's will for his life.

15) Throughout Scripture, a pattern is evident; God's intervention is followed by response.

WHAT EFFECT HAS THE ARRIVAL OF THIS DAY ON YOU?

- At the end of the day will you look back and be able to say, "I responded to God's activity in my life today"?
- Will you be able to identify God's activity in your life when it surrounds you?

### GREEK TERMS USED TODAY

**Mnesteuo** (mnace-tyoo'-o)—to give a souvenir (engagement present)  
**Ketubah**—legal document; outlined rights/obligations during marriage  
**Tektōn** (tek'-tone)—[special] a craftsman in wood; carpenter  
**Paralambanō** (par-al-am-ban'-o)—to receive near, associate with oneself (in any intimate act):- take (unto)  
**Olam** (o-lawm')—the vanishing point; generally time out of mind (past or future), eternity; eternal, ever (-lasting), lasting, perpetual, (+ without end)