

A Christmas To Remember
Matthew 1:18-25

I. The first Christmas is clouded by controversy Matthew 1:18-21

A. Mary's controversial first Christmas (18)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with the child of the Holy Spirit.

B. Joseph pondered his difficult dilemma Matthew 1:19-21

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

II. The first Christmas confirmed by the words of the prophets Matthew 1:22-23

A. A Christmas to remember was predicted by prophets of the past (22,23)

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which is translated, "God with us."

B. A Christmas to remember is the promise: "God with us" (23)

23 "*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*" which is translated, "God with us."

III. The first Christmas is to awaken us to the truth Matthew 1:24-25

A. Joseph is awakened to the truth (24)

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

B. Joseph awakened to obey God's commands (25)

25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

C. Are you awakened to the truth?

Conclusion:

I. The first Christmas is clouded by controversy.

II. The first Christmas is confirmed by the words of the prophets.

III. The first Christmas is to awaken us to the truth.