

10-2018

## A Biographical Study of Joseph the Husband of Mary

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### Recommended Citation

Willmington, Harold, "A Biographical Study of Joseph the Husband of Mary" (2018). *New Testament Biographies*. 27.

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# Joseph

## CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

- I. The distress of Joseph—“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 1:18).
- II. The decision of Joseph—“Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily” (Matt. 1:19).
- III. The dreams of Joseph
  - A. First dream
    1. The contents of the dream
      - a. Concerning the purity of Mary—“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” (Matt. 1:20).
      - b. Concerning the person within Mary—“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).
      - c. Concerning the prophecy about Mary—“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 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” (Matt. 1:22-23).
    2. The consequences of the dream
      - a. The marriage in Nazareth—“Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife” (Matt. 1:24).
      - b. The manger in Bethlehem—“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) . . . And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:4, 7)
      - c. The message in Jerusalem (Luke 2:21-35)—An old man named Simeon delivered a message for Joseph and Mary as they dedicated the infant Jesus in the temple.
  - B. Second dream—Upon the departure of the wise man, Joseph received his second dream. “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt” (Matt. 2:13-14).
  - C. Third dream—“But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child

and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel" (Matt. 2:19-21).

- D. Fourth dream—"But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene" (Matt. 2:22-23).

## **STATISTICS**

*Father:* Jacob (Matt. 1:16)

*Spouse:* Mary

*Sons:* James, Joseph, Simon, Judas (Matt. 13:55)

*Daughters:* Several unnamed (Matt. 13:56)

*Famous ancestors:* Abraham, David, Solomon

*First mention:* Matthew 1:16

*Final mention:* John 6:42

*Meaning of his name:* "Increaser, may God add"

*Frequency of his name:* Referred to 16 times

*Biblical books mentioning him:* Three books (Matthew, Luke, John)

*Occupation:* Carpenter

*Place of birth:* Bethlehem

*Important fact about his life:* He was the godly legal (but not physical) father of Jesus.