



## Chapter 1

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 child of the Holy Spirit.

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."

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."

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

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

## Observations

1. Compare Matthew 1:18-25 with Luke 1:31-35 & Gal. 4:4: In your opinion is it important for Christians to believe in the virgin birth of Jesus? Why?

2. What evidence do Matthew & Dr. Luke provide to make it clear to the reader that Mary was a virgin?

3. Non-believer Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times wrote...“...*belief in the Virgin Birth is evidence that conservative Christians are less intellectual.*” How would you respond to his accusation? What extra-biblical evidence could you use to prove that belief in the virgin birth is in fact logical & intellectual?

4. Who picked the name for Mary’s son? What does the Child’s Name mean? Why is His Name significant?

5. What personal application or devotional thought can you take away from this section of Scripture?