

11/28/21

act 31

FB 13

Sermon – Joseph: Advent Week 1

Scripture – Mathew 2, Isaiah 7, Hosea 11, Micah 5, Jeremiah 31

Main Message: Often overlooked, Joseph was a man who followed the Spirit of God and we remember him today.

Shalom everyone. My name is Joseph. I am from the house of Judah. I am the earthly father of my son Yeshua. My wife Maria was his earthly mother and I know now that he was indeed conceived by the Holy Spirit. Oh I did not understand fully everything at the beginning, but when angels start showing up to speak to you and guide your path, well, one's mind is quickly changed. I will tell you the *small* part I played in this story.

I was getting on in years and finally able to have the means to have a wife and to support her. I became espoused to Maria. She was beautiful in a way that was hard to describe, but she was a woman who served God in the simplicity of her nature. She was young. But I found out that she was with child, I had no intent of causing either of us pain or to be a spectacle to others. Stoning still was a common form of punishment for adultery. I had no desire of that. Though my love towards her was still immature, I indeed loved her.

Before I put any plans in place and thinking about this, my thoughts were of her as I drifted off to sleep. That was the first time an angel of the Lord came to me and this is what the angel said." **Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Maria thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Yeshua: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

I was knowledgeable of scripture of course as I had religious training growing up like many other boys. I knew in my heart this was true and recalled from Isaiah. **Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. - Isaiah 7:14.** Oh to witness fulfillment of the prophets in my lifetime. It gave me hope and confidence in the future, and not just for me, but for my entire people, who have been ruthlessly ruled over by Rome and our own corrupt bureaucracy with its King Herod. It has been a hard life and a hard time. The people have become desperate and are looking for our redemption.

When I woke up, I quickly made haste to meet with Maria and told her of my dream. As I said, she was a woman of great faith in God and believed my vision and so we continued with our plans together as husband and wife. What may have been a burden upon my heart was now immense relief. I would have this beautiful woman for my wife **and** our Redeemer is coming. We existed as husband and wife in every way but one. We would not come together physically until after the birth of her firstborn son. I had the privilege of naming him Yeshua as the angel commanded me, which means. Jehovah is Salvation. He would be salvation for us all.

We had to stay in Bethlehem for a brief time and behold, strangers from the East came to us bearing gifts and following that bright star in the heavens. I knew more events were coming. These strangers travelled in a large caravan and presented us with gifts long planned for by the Magi. Gifts of Gold, frankincense and myrrh were laid at our feet. More amazing is that they bowed down to my young child and worshipped him. How did they know? Before they left they spoke to me briefly about where they came from and how they knew. They were given teachings and wisdom from the prophets who lived in Babylon nearly five centuries ago and the signs to look for. They couldn't stay and left discretely because King Herod was jealous of his position as king and the scribes informed him that one day the messiah would indeed come.

I was warned that night in another dream to take Maria and Yeshua to Egypt leaving everything here behind. Now I understood the purpose of these gifts. We could make the trip and stay as long as was necessary. This made sense because the prophet Hosea (11:1) said, Out of Egypt I called my son. When Israel [was] a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Finally King Herod died and I'm told it wasn't pretty, but not before all the boys 2 and under were killed in and around Bethlehem. This was foretold by the Prophet Jeremiah that there would be great weeping and great mourning. I ended up in Nazareth having been warned again not to back to my home town because the son of Herod was reigning in his place. This is where my life with my wife and son took on more a sense of normalcy. I worked and as my little Yeshua got older he worked along with me learning how to build things along with me. His heart was always somewhere else