



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Joseph's Obedience

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Matthew (A.D. 50-69), Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector prior to leaving all and becoming an apostle of Jesus Christ. Matthew is writing to Jewish readers about Jesus their long awaited Messiah. God used Matthew as a messenger to the Jews. In the Holy Scriptures we find that God also sends other messengers. Gabriel, the supreme messenger of God, is one of the two angels mentioned by name in the Bible (the other is Michael). Gabriel appeared in human form in the OT to Daniel, (Dn 8:16; 9:21, 22). In the NT Gabriel appeared to Zechariah to announce the birth of Zechariah's son, John the Baptist (Lk 1:11-20) and six months later Gabriel appeared to Mary to divinely announce that she would become the mother of Jesus. (Lk 1:26-38). God also sends other angels as messengers. Matthew describes a divine message that an angel of the Lord delivered to Joseph;

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.” And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:18-25 NASB)

Joseph was a righteous man. Joseph was betrothed or engaged to Mary and according to the law; this betrothal was as binding as marriage. After finding out that she was with child that was not his, Joseph could have had her stoned to death. However, not only was Joseph a righteous man, meaning that he believed in God and had been declared righteous by God, he was also merciful and did not want to disgrace Mary. So Joseph planned to send her away, meaning that he was getting a divorce from Mary. God had a different plan. God not only divinely chose Mary to bear a son called Jesus but also divinely chose Joseph to take her as his wife.

The Lord sent a divine message to Joseph in a dream.

In the dream Joseph was told by an angel of the Lord to not be afraid or fear not (KJV) and continue to take Mary as his wife. God made no mistake in the choice of Joseph. God chose Joseph because Joseph loved God and Joseph loved Mary. Matthew notes that this fulfilled or completed one of the prophecies of the OT Scriptures;

“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” (Is 7:14)

Joseph was obedient. It took great faith by Joseph to believe and accept God's message in his dream. Joseph obeyed God and took Mary as his wife and abided by the command of the angel and Joseph named the Child Jesus.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you have the faith of Joseph?
- Are you obedient to do the things that God calls you to do?
- Joseph had the honor to call His name Jesus.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44