

**MATTHEW (THE KING, HIS KINGDOM AND ME)
PROGRAM 2 (#910182)
WEEK 1 (910340)
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SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 2 – The Virgin Birth

TUESDAY

OPEN

Every Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether He was born on that date or not, really doesn't matter, we celebrate His birth. We say that Mary was His mother, and that Mary was a virgin. How important, how critical, is the fact that Jesus was born of a virgin to your salvation? To your life? O Beloved, it's the difference between life and death. It's the difference between heaven and hell and you need to understand it and we'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Welcome back, Beloved, to our study on the Gospel of Matthew. We are one day into this study and I'm sitting here in Nazareth in a replica of a home that, in all probability, was very much like the home of Mary. It's not a home of a wealthy man. It's the home of a common laborer. And I'm in Nazareth Village, a wonderful place to visit; a wonderful place to come and catch the ambiance of the times of Jesus Christ. I'm sitting in the outer court

of the house. And in the outer court, I'm sitting on the edge of a well and there is water in that well. The outer court signifies that this man was a little bit richer than maybe others. We have the cooking pot. We have equipment that they have here to thresh the wheat, many, many things. But what I want to talk to you today was not about the house, but about the people that lived in the house. I want to talk to you about Mary. I want us to look at the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and how essential is it that you believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. It's very important to Matthew, and so Matthew, after giving us the genealogy of Jesus Christ, he opens the gospel with the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Son of David, the son of Abraham. We've looked at that. We've looked at the genealogy. We've looked at the women that are included in this genealogy, which is very unusual. We've seen the grace and the names and the stories behind those women. And then in Mathew chapter 1 we come to verse 16, "[And] **Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary....**" He gives us the legal line of Jesus' genealogy through his father, who is not his physical father. And then it says, "**Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.**" (Matthew 1:16) Now remember as we study together we are observing the text. We're trying to discover what God says and many times when God repeats a word the purpose of repeating that word is so that you and I will get the point. The Bible originally was an oral book and so people had to listen. They had to hear and one of the ways that you remember is through repetition. So he has mentioned again that Jesus is the Messiah. And so it goes on to say, "**So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David, to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations;... from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah....**" and there it is again, "**...fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ....**" (Matthew 1:17-18) And he is already established that Jesus is the Messiah. So it could say, "Now the birth of the Messiah," because they are synonymous. He has made them synonymous. "**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...,” and this is a very important statement, very important phrase: **“...by the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 1:18)** In other words she was pregnant. Who impregnated her? Who caused her to have a child? It was the Spirit of God. It was not Joseph. Now it says, [“when they were betrothed.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 1:18) Well, what happened was they would make a covenant ahead of time. The family would plan who was going to marry whom and they would make a covenant, a solemn binding agreement. It was a marriage contract, so to speak, that could not be broken once it was made unless—unless--and this is very important, unless it could be proved that that woman was not a virgin. Unless it could be proved that that woman had been unfaithful at some time in her life. As a matter of fact, when you study the Old Testament, you study the fact that a woman would take to her marriage bed the bridal cloths and those bridal cloths would show that she had never known a man before because they would be spotted with blood. She would fold those up and she would keep them in case she was ever later accused by her husband of not being a virgin when he married her. So Mary was a virgin. And before they came together, before that covenant, before that contract was culminated, so to speak, or fulfilled in coming together in the marriage bed, it was very obvious that Mary was pregnant. Now it says, **“...Joseph her husband...,**” and he is called a husband because the contract is set because he is going to marry her. **“...Her husband, being a righteous man....” (Matthew 1:19)** One of the words that you want to mark throughout the Gospel of Matthew is the word “righteous” or “righteousness.” It’s a very important word because [“only the righteous are going to inherit the kingdom of God.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 5:10) To be righteous means: That you’re in right standing with God. It means that you are walking in submission to God and to His commandments. It says, **“...[Now] Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her....” (Matthew 1:19)** He loved this woman. He cared about her. He was a man that was a righteous

man. He was not mean. He was not vindictive. He wasn't so angry that he was going to get even with her and he was going to take her out and he was going to have her stoned, as he could have her stoned, because she had committed fornication. He wasn't going to do that to her. So being a righteous man it says, **"...And not wanting to disgrace her, [he] planned to send her away secretly."** (Matthew 1:19) He was going to just send her away and let it go instead of getting vengeance. It shows you a lot about the heart of Joseph. As a matter of fact, it's so interesting to study about Joseph. Not much is told about him, but he was quite a man. He was a man who heard God, as you will see. Well, I want to pause for a minute and I want to take you to Deuteronomy chapter 22:23-29. In Deuteronomy chapter 22 verse 23, you got it? It says, **"If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor's wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you."** (Deuteronomy 22:23-24) I wonder today how many stonings there would be if we lived under the law, because virginity was a purity that a woman was to have when she went to her marriage bed. Sex outside of marriage was not acceptable in the eyes of God. As a matter of fact, one of the Ten Commandments was, **"You shall not commit adultery."** (Exodus 20:14) Another commandment was **"You shall not covet your...neighbor's wife..."** among other things because that is a sin. (Exodus 20:17) God wants purity in our lives and he wants sexual purity. It goes on to say in verse 25, **"But if in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the girl; [for] there is no sin in the girl worthy of death, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her."** (Deuteronomy 22:25-27) Think of all the men now. All the athletes and

men of prominence that are taking advantage of their positions and are raping girls. What would have been done in Jesus' day? They would have been put to death. It says, **"If a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged...."** (Deuteronomy 22:25) Now we've been talking about engaged girls and we know that engaged girls, because of the covenant, that man that she's engaged to, is considered her husband. **"[But] if a man finds a girl who is a virgin, who is not engaged...,**" no marriage contract no covenant, **"...and seizes her and lies with her and they are discovered, then the man who lay with her shall give to the girl's father fifty shekels of silver, and she shall become his wife because he...violated her; he cannot divorce her all [the] days. A man shall not take his father's wife so that he will not uncover his father's skirt."** (Deuteronomy 22:28-30) Well now you see the importance of virginity. Now you see how the law protected the virgin. Now you see how the law protected the woman who would be raped by the man. You see now that there is not a double standard with God. In other words, Okay, a man's a man. He is going to have sex before marriage, but a woman's not to. No, if this man has sex before marriage, if he violates another woman, then he is to be put to death. We know that Joseph was a righteous man and Joseph did not want to disgrace Mary. He respected her. He valued her as a woman so he had a plan. And in his plan he was simply going to send her away. He was simply going to send her out the door, so to speak, but that was not in God's plan because God was behind this conception. The woman bore in her womb a child by the Holy Spirit. How important is that? We'll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

[Finding out that Mary was pregnant, Joseph determined to put her away,] but God had another plan. (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 1:19) God was about to send the angel to Joseph to speak to him in a dream. Where did that happen? It happened right here in Nazareth, the place where I'm sitting, in the land of Israel, in the region of the Galilee. Well, it says, **"...Joseph her**

husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he...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 [will] call His name Jesus....,’ “Yeshua,” “...for He will save His people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:19-21) One of the key words that you want to mark throughout the Gospel of Matthew is the word “sins.” Jesus came to save sinners and the One that was born of Mary was going to be “Yeshua,” “Joshua,” “God Our Savior.” Well, Joseph was told in a dream. Mary already knew by whom she was pregnant and I want to take us to Luke chapter 1 and see what God tells us through Luke about Jesus’ conception because it’s so good. It goes with the genealogy of Jesus Christ, The Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham. And it says in verse 26 of Luke chapter 1, “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God [in]to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of [a] salutation this was. [And] the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. ‘And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall [call His name] Jesus. ‘He [shall] be great and [shall] be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God....,’ listen carefully, “...will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom [shall] have no end.’ [And] Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’” (Luke 1:33-34) In other words, she knew that she had never known a man. There was no way that she could conceive a child. “[And] the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that

reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35) This one that One that was going to be born of Mary was the Son of God. In the light of that now let’s go back to Matthew chapter 1. Matthew is going to do something that he does throughout this gospel and it’s something that you want to notice and it’s something that you want to mark in a very significant way. It says, **“Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet.” (Matthew 1:22)** He wants you to understand very clearly that this is God’s words. These are the words of God the Father. These are the words of Yahweh, of Jehovah. He spoke them through a prophet. He gave a message to a human messenger and a human messenger that bears God’s message is called a prophet. And it says, **“...[This was] to fulfill what was spoken....” (Matthew 1:22)** So I put a like a little Bible, an open Bible, over the word “spoken” and then for “prophet” what I do is I draw a megaphone. A megaphone in green and then I color yellow because yellow is my color for God. [“And so it’s the Lord speaking through the prophet.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 1:22) And that is why I color it yellow. Well, why did the Lord speak through the prophet? In verse 23 it says, **“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which translated means...,”** and this is very, very key, **“...God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)** This One that was going to be born of Mary was born flesh and blood, but He was God in the flesh. It’s called the incarnation. It is deity in clothes in flesh and it says, **“And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel...commanded him, and [he] took Mary as his wife, but [he] kept her a virgin until...,”** and you want to mark “until,” it’s a time phrase and it’s very important. **“[He] kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.” (Matthew 1:24-25)** In other words he married her. The contract was performed except, he did not have sexual relation with her until after the birth of Jesus Christ. And then later on in Matthew chapter 13, we’re going to see that Jesus had half brothers and half sisters. Mary and Joseph knew each other and bore other children, but Jesus was different

because He was the Son of God. Now this was fulfilling a prophecy, a prophecy that is recorded for us in Isaiah chapter 7. But the question is, “Why the virgin birth?” Why is it so important that Jesus be born of a virgin? Well, it’s important because first of all He must be the Son of God. But second of all it’s important because every one of us are born in sin. David said, “**...In sin did my mother conceive me.**” (Psalm 51:5, KJV) In other words, I was born a sinner. So what he’s telling us in Romans is that [by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin. So then death passed upon all men in that all have sinned]. (PARAPHRASE, Romans 5:12) So Jesus is born to deliver us from our sin. There needs to be a payment for our sins. “**...The wages of sin is death....**” (Romans 6:23a) So Jesus is born to die. He has to be born sinless because if He is born a sinner He is automatically going to die. So when John the Baptist looks at him he says, “**...‘Behold, the Lamb of God [that] takes away the sins of the world!’**” (John 1:29b) So this is a lamb without a spot. This is a lamb without blemish. [“We are redeemed not with corruptible things such as silver and gold from our vain manner of living, but we are redeemed by the blood of a lamb without spot.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Peter 1:18-19) In other words, without sin, without blemish, the virgin birth. Listen to me carefully, if Jesus Christ was not born of a virgin, then He has sinful blood and His blood can never atone for your sins. And so God said, since you and I are made of flesh and blood, in Hebrews chapter 2, [“Jesus likewise also partook of the same so that He might deliver us from the one who had the power of death.”] (PARAPHRASE, Hebrews 2:14) That is the devil. What gives the devil the power of death? It’s your sin. What do you need to escape the power of the devil? It’s forgiveness of sins. How do you get forgiveness of sins? Only through the shedding of the blood of One who is sinless. Jesus had to be born of a virgin and if He wasn’t, Beloved, than you and I are lost and we are going to perish like all mankind. But He was born of a virgin. This is why you must believe and support and share with others the virgin birth.