

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

#1: Daddy's Home

December 2-4, 2006

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). ²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *Matthew 1:18-24 TNIV*

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, . . . *Luke 2:1-6 TNIV*

Introduction: Like our own traditions and memories surrounding the celebration of Christmas, the story of Christ's birth is filled with references to "home." As we view the nativity through this lens, we can see that God always has a home for his people and his plans. God had a better "home" in mind for Jesus' birth than Joseph and Mary might have chosen for themselves. We say that "Home is where the heart is," but "Home is where God's heart is."

- I. Joseph's "Home"
 - A. Joseph, a carpenter, was a "righteous man" whose desire was to create a home committed to God.
 - B. Joseph—or Joseph's family before him—had chosen to leave his ancestral home and make his career in Nazareth.
 - C. Joseph—or Joseph's family—chose Mary as his wife, to serve God alongside him and become the mother of his home.
 - D. God chose Mary to be the bodily home of his Son, Jesus Christ, and Joseph to be Jesus' earthly father.
 - E. God's plans trumped Joseph's plans, but they were far more glorious than Joseph could have known.
- II. "The Home of Bread" (Bethlehem)
 - A. Bethlehem was the home God had chosen from the beginning of time as the birthplace of His Son.
 - B. Jesus had to be born in Bethlehem to fulfill the ancient Hebrew prophecies concerning the Messiah.
 - C. Joseph was from "the home of David," so Bethlehem was His ancestral home.
 - D. Because Mary and Joseph were almost certainly ostracized in Nazareth, Bethlehem may well have been a better "home" for the birth of Jesus.
- III. God's Home With Us
 - A. The angel told Joseph that the child growing in Mary's womb was of the Holy Spirit and would be called "Immanuel," which means "God with us."
 - B. In coming to the world as incarnate flesh, God was showing us that his "home" was with humanity.
 - C. Because God's plan was to make His home with humanity in order to redeem us, Joseph and Mary's "home" was wherever that plan could be fulfilled.
 - D. God chooses "home" for His people.

Conclusion: Human beings are planners and strategizers, especially when it comes to making their "homes." For believers, "home" must be the place of God's choosing, according to His perfect plan. Ultimately, we know that no place on earth is our real "home," so we thrill to find ourselves in the place where God can use us. Home is always wherever God's heart is.