**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2018**

***Genesis 3:15 And I*** [God] ***will put enmity between you*** [Satan] ***and the woman*** [Eve], ***and between your seed*** [the unregenerate] ***and her seed*** [Jesus Christ]***; He shall bruise you*** [Satan] ***on the head*** [rending him powerless at the cross, Heb. 2:14]***, and you*** [Satan] ***shall bruise him*** [Christ] ***on the heel*** [He willingly suffered the cross, providing salvation, then resurrected]***.***

***Matthew 1:16 Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.***

This verse ends the genealogy of Christ from Abraham to the birth of Christ through Solomon which was Joseph’s line. But Joseph is different than all the rest. All those mentioned were biological fathers of their sons but Joseph was not. He was Jesus’ stepfather who was His legal father but not the biological father.

It was important that Joseph was the legal father of Christ because Jesus’ right to the Davidic Throne was secure being traced through the royal Davidic Line of Solomon, which was Joseph’s line.

***by*** – EX, **ἐξ**, prep. - out from, ***whom*** – HES, **ἥς**, pronoun, relative, genitive, singular, ***feminine,***

***by whom*** in English could be construed as referring to both Joseph and Mary. However, in the original Greek, ***whom*** is singular and in the feminine gender, thus indicating that Jesus was born of Mary, but not of Joseph.

The singular means Jesus had one parent, not two, and the feminine gender means that parent was Mary, not Joseph.

Jesus could not have been the real son of Joseph without coming under God’s curse on Jechoniah, (Jeremiah contracted the name to Choniah) which decreed that no descendant of that wicked king would prosper (*Matt. 1:11*, *Jer. 22:30*).

***Luke 3:23 And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly, the*** ***son of Joseph, the son*** (in-law) ***of Eli*** (Mary’s father).

This verse starts the genealogy of Jesus through Mary’s line starting with her father, traced through Nathan, all the way back to Adam. If Jesus is truly human, then He must be descended from Adam which this genealogy demon- strates.

Jesus could not have been the real son of Joseph without coming under God’s curse on Jechoniah, which decreed that no descendant of that wicked king would prosper (Jer. 22:30).

***supposedly*** - NOMIZO, **νομίζω;** v. imper. pass. ind. ② to form an idea about something but with some suggestion of tentativeness or refraining from a definitive statement,

*Matthew 1:16* distinctly states that Jacob begot Joseph. Here in Luke, it does not say that Eli begot Joseph; it says Joseph was the son of Eli, (son meaning son-in-law).

In the original language, the definite article (the) in the genitive form (refers to the source) appears before every name in the genealogy except one. That one name is Joseph. It has the definite article (the) also but it is in the genitive (the subject of a verb). This is the singular exception meaning that Joseph was included only because of his marriage to Mary.

***Matthew 1:18 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.***

***Matthew 1:23 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."*** (Quoted from *Isa. 7:14*)

***VIRGIN*** – PARTHENOS, **παρθένος** n. nsf; one who has never engaged in sexual intercourse, virgin. This word is only used for a virgin.

***Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.***

***Luke 1:45*** – An angel filled Mary in on the details of the miraculous conception.

**Chapter 2**

*Verse 1 -* ***Bethlehem***

***Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."***

**King Herod** – An Edomite, became king through wrangling with the Romans. He was known as Herod the Great.

**Magi** – MAGOS, **μάγος,** Also known as “*wise men*”. According to tradition, there were three of them and some believe they were kings.

*They belonged to a Gentile fraternity of scholars that existed before the days of Daniel. It was one of the oldest fraternities in the world that came up through the Medes and the Persians, and it also had a relationship to the Babylonians. It was born somewhere in the Tigris-Euphrates valley in Mesopotamia and it involved three races of people, the Medes, the Persians, and the Chaldeans.*

*There were not three wise men but possibly as many as fifty to one hundred. A great portion of this ancient fraternity came to Jerusalem, and when this fraternity moved out of its usual orbit of action everyone sat up and took notice. Wherever the Magi went people didn’t bothered them, they were afraid of the Magi.*

*Daniel 2:48 tells us that Daniel was a member of the Magi and a high potentate in the fraternity. They were all Gentiles. They are remembered for being astrologers but they were chemists, physicians, and mathematicians. As far as we know Daniel was the only Jew who was ever permitted to enter the fraternity.*

***Daniel 2:48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.***

*Verse 2 - 3*

Can you imagine what Herod, who was the current king of the Jews, was thinking when he heard why they were there?

The city should have received the news with joy was disturbed by anything that might upset its status quo or risk the displeasure of the hated Roman rulers.

 *The magis’ visit, as part of the introduction to Matthew’s Gospel, introduces several prominent themes which reappear in subsequent chapters. The account establishes that Jesus’ messiahship has bearing not only on the Jews, but on the gentile world (symbolized in the “wise men from the East”).* Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, “Wise Men,” Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 2154.