



Prince of Peace  
Matthew 1:1-25

| Matthew 1:1-17  |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Abraham  | 1. Solomon  | 1. Jechonias   |
| 2. Isaac  | 2. Roboam   | 2. Salathiel   |
| 3. Jacob  | 3. Abia   | 3. Zorobabel   |
| 4. Judas  | 4. Asa  | 4. Abiud   |
| 5. Phares   | 5. Josaphat   | 5. Eliakim   |
| 6. Estrom   | 6. Joram  | 6. Azor  |
| 7. Aram   | 7. Ozias  | 7. Sadoc   |
| 8. Aminadab   | 8. Joatham  | 8. Achim   |
| 9. Naason   | 9. Achaz  | 9. Eliud   |
| 10. Salmon  | 10. Ezekias   | 10. Eleazar  |
| 11. Booz  | 11. Manasses  | 11. Matthan  |
| 12. Obed  | 12. Amon  | 12. Jacob  |
| 13. Jesse   | 13. Josias  | 13. Joseph   |
| 14. David   | 14. Jechonias   | 14. Jesus  |
| So all the generations<br>from Abraham to David<br>are fourteen generations | and from David until<br>the carrying away into<br>Babylon are fourteen<br>generations | and from the carrying away<br>into Babylon unto Christ are<br>fourteen generations |

The genealogy of Jesus was perhaps the most notable family tree in all of Israel. There were 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus. Joseph was in generation 41. Some of the names in Jesus's family tree besides Abraham are Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Boaz, Jesse, David, Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Joatham, Hezekiah, Josiah, Zerubbabel and Joseph's father Jacob.



Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

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One of the most difficult challenges in life is when we discover that someone that we are close to, someone that we are counting on, and someone that we care about is not who we thought they were.

It is one thing for that someone to disappoint us by their behavior. It is even more difficult when it is apparent that the one that has disappointed us has been deceptive and that their character is severely flawed. It can be devastating and even humiliating especially when that someone is your spouse, your adult child, a close friend, or a close business associate.

Devastated and humiliated must have been how Joseph felt when he heard the news that Mary was pregnant. Even though Joseph and Mary would have only had minimal contact after they were betrothed, as a Jewish man, Joseph would have been spending a great deal of time and money to prepare for marriage. Each investment he made with his time and his work would have only increased his affection for Mary and his dreams about their future. I am sure that he showed others his work and talked with others about their future.

If you want to identify with his anticipation from the perspective of a Jewish man, just read the Songs of Solomon.

Suddenly, in a moment, his dreams were crushed.

Despite this circumstance, Joseph's response was out of this world.

- [Joseph was a just man](#)

To be just means to be committed to do what was morally right. Joseph knew what God's law said was morally right.

[Deuteronomy 22:20-21](#)

[20 "But if the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman, 21 then they shall bring out the young woman to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death with stones, because she has done a disgraceful thing in Israel, to play the harlot in her father's house. So you shall put away the evil from among you.](#)

[NKJV](#)

But apparently Joseph had received Mary's version of the story. She was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

He had no confirmation that her story was true. But he had no confirmation that it was not true.

To be just also means to be innocent of any wrong doing.

The only way Mary could be tried publicly was if Joseph was willing to be the chief witness. Because of his doubts and his desire to be innocent of any wrong doing, he decided the just thing to do was to avoid being a witness against her but to end their engagement.

Joseph was a just man.

- Joseph was a patient man

Proverbs 19:2

Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, And he sins who hastens with his feet.

NKJV

Joseph did not rush to judgment or make a rash decision. Joseph slept on it before he did anything. This gave God a chance to speak to His heart.

Joseph was a patient man.

- Joseph was a wise man

Psalms 1:1-6

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

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Joseph was familiar with the prophecies and promises of scripture for Israel and for his family.

Joseph knew the prophecy about the ruler in Isaiah 9:6-7.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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Joseph knew the promise that this ruler would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

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Even though an angel spoke to him in a dream, Joseph did not make an emotional decision based on a dream. He based his decision on the prophecy of God's Word.

Joseph was a wise man.

- Joseph was a courageous man

Psalms 118:6

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

NKJV

Joseph risked his reputation and his life to take Mary as his wife.

Joseph trusted God and did not fear man.

Joseph was a courageous man.

Joseph was a just man, a patient man, a wise man, and a courageous man.

These same characteristics in Joseph's life would be important to other major decisions Joseph would make for his family.

It is easy to see why God chose Mary and Joseph for this mission.

God made Himself known to them and they knew God. Because they knew God, they loved God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

The revelation of God they received is inferior to the revelation we have received. They would know Jesus and know God in human flesh but when they made these decisions, they did not have Jesus.

Even after they knew Jesus, their knowledge of God was limited. Joseph died before Jesus began his public ministry. If he was 20 when Jesus was born, then he died before he was 50.

Only Mary was able to see the fulness of God in Jesus. She stood at the cross and saw God suffer for her sins and the sins of the world.

After the resurrection of Jesus, it all made sense to her.

God loved her so much that He suffered in her place. When Jesus died on the cross, God's judgment against her was fulfilled. The suffering of Jesus for her was sufficient for God to say it is finished.

Does it all make sense to you?

- God created man in his image
- Men rebelled against God
- God's penalty for sin is death
- God gave His son Jesus to suffer the penalty

Do you know God through Jesus?

Do you love Jesus?

One of the errors in people's minds that keeps them from receiving Jesus is a misunderstanding of justice.

What would you think if a judge forgave murderers, rapist, pedophiles, and thieves and just released them to continue injuring other people? Would that be just?

What kind of punishment is a just punishment for a murderer? Is their death enough to make things right for their sin? Their death does not bring back the person that was killed and stop the suffering of those that loved that person. Even if they lived their whole life in prison and then died, it does not stop the suffering of those that loved the person that was murdered.

**For a punishment to be just, the person that sins should at least suffer until those that were injured stop suffering.**

What about false accusations? What is a just punishment for this sin? How long should someone suffer for making false accusations? Can an apology restore the reputation of the one that was falsely accused and stop their suffering? To be just, the guilty suffer as long the victim suffers?

A just punishment is when a guilty person suffers as long as the victim suffers?

If you stole something from me that was meaningful to me that could not be replaced, how long will I suffer? How long should you suffer for justice to be served?

What if the victim is eternal God?

Does God suffer due to our sin?

**Genesis 6:6**

**6 And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.**

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Psalms 78:40

40 How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!

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Psalms 95:10-11

10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.'

11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

NKJV

Isaiah 63:10

10 But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.

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Psalms 7:11

11 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.

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How long will God suffer because of the sins of those He created?

Revelation 1:8

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

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The just penalty for any sin against God is eternal punishment!

Unless somehow a payment for sin could be made that would satisfy God's justice once and for all, we all need to suffer for eternity because God is going to suffer for eternity.

That payment for sin would have to be sufficient to satisfy God's justice and stop God from suffering for our sin! That payment would have to be a kind of payment that would cause God and man to suffer the consequences once and for all!

Isaiah 53:5-6

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

NKJV

That is what Jesus accomplished. As the God/Man, when He died on the cross, His death satisfied God's justice. In His death, God and man suffered for sin once and for all. God's justice was satisfied.

If you have received Jesus, God has stopped suffering for your sin because Jesus already suffered for your sin. You are released from punishment because the victim of your sin is no longer suffering from your sin. He remembers your sins no more because of what Jesus accomplished.

If you have not received Jesus, your sins are not covered by the death of Jesus. If you die without receiving Jesus, you will suffer eternally for your sins because God will still suffer eternally for your sins. For all of eternity God will be sorry that he made you.

Do you know God through Jesus?

Do you love Jesus?

Will you follow Jesus?