

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

According to Joseph

A QUESTION FOR EARLY IN DECEMBER: What will Christmas 2014 mean to you?

We can get some ideas about answers to that question by considering Christmas / the birth of Christ from a few different points of view. For example, from the perspective of his father.

Matthew 1, 2 (ESV)

JOSEPH AS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN JESUS:

Joseph was a steward; he took responsibility for that which was not his own.

1) Joseph stewarded the promises of God by trusting in God

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

2) Joseph stewarded the promised One through obedience to God

Matthew 1:24-25 (ESV), Matthew 2:13-14 (ESV), Matthew 2:19-21 (ESV)

BEFORE JOSEPH DID ANYTHING, GOD ACTED

1) God's sovereignty in Jesus' ancestry through Joseph **Matthew 1:17 (ESV)**

2) God's election of Joseph to be Jesus' father **Matthew 1:19-21 (ESV)**

3) God's grace in sending Christ **Matthew 1:21-23 (ESV)**

IN LOOKING AT JOSEPH WE ARE REMINDED:

- 1) In Joseph we see a man who adopts someone who is not "of him" and we are reminded that in God we see one who adopts those who are not "of him," in fact, He adopts those who are His enemies
- 2) In Joseph we see a man who would associate with those who would mar his reputation and we are reminded that in Christ we see the God-man who would join with those who would mar his reputation (he became sin)
- 3) In Joseph we see a man who would face exile and danger for his own and we are reminded that in Christ we see one who would be exiled from both God and man and who faced danger to the point of death.
- 4) In Joseph we see a man who served God's chosen One and we are reminded that in Jesus we see a man who came to serve God's chosen people to the point of death on a cross.

So then, what will Christmas 2014 look like for you?

In light of the birth of Christ, let it look like an occasion for stewarding the promises and the promised One in

AS WE LOOK AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS ACCORDING TO JOSEPH, LET US RESPOND TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS AS JOSEPH DID:

- 1) Let us steward the gift of Jesus by trusting in His promises

O Little Town of Bethlehem

*O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us we pray,
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.*

- 2) Let us steward the gift of Jesus through obedience to the promised One

Away in a Manger

“Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.”

NEXT SUNDAY: December 21. THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST. In His own words. **Psalm 40:6-8**