THEY WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL

Matthew 1:18–25

Key Verse: 1:23

1. How is the birth of Jesus described? (18) What did “pledged to be married” mean to them? (19) Note the author’s emphasis on how Jesus was conceived (16,18b,20b,23a, 25). Why did Jesus have to be both conceived by the Holy Spirit (23; Lk1:35) and born of a virgin, Mary? (Heb2:14–18)

2. When he first heard about it, how did Joseph respond? (19) What did it mean to be “faithful to the law”? (Compare Dt22:20–21) Why did he not want to expose her to public disgrace? Why did he decide to “divorce her quietly”? What can we learn from him?

3. How did an angel reassure Joseph and explain things? (20–21) What is implied in his being called “son of David”? What is the meaning of the name he was to give the baby? (21b) How did Israel’s history in the genealogy reveal his people’s need to be saved from their sins? How did Jesus save us? (Isa53:5; Tit2:14)

4. What prophecy did all this fulfill? (22­–23) Why is it important that this prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus’ birth? What did it mean to the Jews at that time that God was still with them?

5. Read verse 23. What does this name tell us about Jesus’ real identity? How was his name, “Immanuel,” especially meaningful to the author Matthew? (8:17; 9:12–13; 12:20–21) What does this name of Jesus mean to us? (e.g. Heb7:25)

6. After he woke up from this dream, what did Joseph do? (24–25) How would doing these things cause him some personal difficulty? Why was his obedience to God’s instructions at this time so important, and what can we learn from him?