

**God's Ultimate Gift
Prepares us for the
Ultimate Calling**

Leading Up to Jesus' Birth

The Prophet Daniel gave us the timeline for the Messiah

Gabriel announces John's birth to Zechariah (John will prepare the way)

Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary who is faithful to her call

Mary, miraculously pregnant, heads to her older relative Elizabeth

Matthew 1:18-20 (ESV) ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

This is the first and last time this miracle ever occurred because there is only one true Messiah → *Joseph was the right man to be the earthly father to Jesus, but He needed divine confirmation* *Joseph didn't believe her story, yet he didn't want to subject her to severe punishment*

Mary & Joseph were divinely called. Have you answered your call?

Matthew 1:21-25 (NIV2011) ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All 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"). ²⁴ When

Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Jesus or Yeshua means "Yahweh is Salvation" or Yahweh Saves", for His mission was salvation for us.

This would not be an easy life for Joseph. He would now be a social outcast, but he was obedient to God's calling in his life.

God formerly revealed Himself through the prophets, but He would show His perfect, divine image through Jesus.

How will you respond to the ultimate gift of God's Son, Jesus?

Why is Jesus the Ultimate Gift?

He emptied Himself to experience human frailty

He was tempted in every way, yet was without sin

He conquered death and sin by His great sacrifice

He rose so that we could have new life in Him

By believing and following Him, we receive complete forgiveness and pass from death to everlasting life