

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What may have been the purpose of listing the genealogy of Jesus? What can it mean to us today?
2. Why did the angel of the Lord need to assure Joseph and Mary of that which was taking place?
3. Do we today always understand the ways of the Lord?
4. How do we react when God's ways seems to be different than our ways?

SUMMARY:

After many centuries, God's promises given in prophecy were to be fulfilled. It was necessary to establish Jesus' ancestry so people could be assured that these things were true. It was necessary also to explain these events to those who were to be used as instruments in this fulfillment to establish in their hearts that all was well and was found pleasing in God's sight. How wonderful that Mary could yield herself and Joseph "*did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him.*" (vs. 24) What an example for us!

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

October 7, 2007

Fourth Quarter

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO JOSEPH

LESSON TEXT: *Matthew 1:1-25*

LESSON SETTING: The coming of Christ announced in Nazareth.

TIME: The first year of our Lord.

I. JESUS' ANCESTRY. Matthew 1:1-17

- A. Promise of Abraham. Genesis 18:18; 22:18
- B. Seed of David. John 7:42
- C. Number of Generations (vs. 17)

II. THE ANGEL'S ASSURANCE. Matthew 1:18-23

- A. To Mary. Luke 1:26-35
- B. To Joseph. (vs. 20-21)

III. JOSEPH'S ACCEPTANCE. Matthew 1:24, 25

- A. An Angel Speaks. (vs. 20)
 1. Repeats prophecy - to be a Savior. Isaiah 9:7
 2. Repeats prophecy - born of a Virgin. Isaiah 7:14
- B. Joseph Obeys. (vs. 24) Luke 2:39; Acts 5:29; Hebrews 5:8

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD A VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BRING FORTH A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL.*
Matthew 1:23

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Matthew 3:1-17

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 40:1-8; Mark 1:1-11;
Luke 3:1-23

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ—King and Savior

TOPIC: JOHN ANNOUNCES CHRIST

INTRODUCTION:

Before Jesus was conceived in Mary by the Holy Ghost, God had already made plans for someone to precede Jesus and announce His coming. John the Baptist was born six months before Jesus and apparently his ministry preceded Jesus' ministry by this same period of time. His life was so different and his message also, that it influenced peoples' lives and caused them to muse in their hearts whether or not he was the Christ. (Luke 3:15)

He pointed out the way of salvation to them and many came in repentance and were baptized, confessing their sins. John announced Jesus as One who would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and with fire, the One who would forgive their sins and give peace to their hearts.

It is interesting to note that the way should be prepared through repentance. Likewise today our hearts must be prepared by repentance before the work of grace can be accomplished within us. We must show by our desire to live different that we are truly sorrowful for our sinfulness (fruits of repentance), then we too can be baptized with the baptism of Christ and know the blessings of the Holy Spirit filling our lives and guiding in all things.

CENTRAL TRUTH: The true Christian message must exalt the miraculous Christ as King and Savior.

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD.*

John 1:29

Isn't this a wonderful expression? Think of the precious and awe-inspiring meaning. The Lamb of God!

The people knew the meaning of a lamb. They had for generations used lambs of their flocks that were without spot or blemish as sacrifices for their sins. They knew the purpose of these lambs but could they fully understand the real purpose of God's Son? Could they really picture Him as a sacrificial lamb? It was hard for the people to see this and that is why so few accepted him. For the same reason today, only a comparative few accept Christ as Savior.

Yet how truly He does fit that purpose! He came in the flesh even as we are and was tempted in all points like we are, yet He did not yield to these temptations (Hebrews 4:15). He was without spot or blemish. He came to do that which the blood of lambs could not do. Through the shedding of HIS blood came atonement for sin and also, through Christ came power to live victoriously for Him. Are you living in this power?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 8 - 14

M. Isaiah's Prophecy about Jesus. Isaiah 11:1-10

T. *John Announces Christ. Matthew 3:1-17

W. A Prophet in the Wilderness. Mark 1:2-8

T. John Comes Preaching. Luke 3:1-18

F. The Message of John. John 1:15-23

S. John's Testimony about Himself. John 3:22-30

S. A Testimony about Christ. John 3:31-36