

"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. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel' (which means God with us)." Matthew 1:20-23 ESV

Things sure must have seemed crazy and out of control in Joseph's life at that time. Everything that he thought was coming to pass in his future was now crashing down all around him. But as he considered his options to deal with this change in plans, a messenger of God came to encourage him and keep him on the path that God had for his life. The angel, by calling him "son of David" was reminding him of his royal lineage which included God's promise to have a descendant of David sit on the throne forever. He was encouraging him with the Heavenly perspective, that things were right on schedule, and God was still in control in what seemed like days of chaos.

Don't we need that reminder today? Our world, too, is looking more and more out of control. Plans that we had for our futures now seem to be

changing by the day. But let me be a Heavenly messenger to you in these times. God is still in control. The message of Christmas can serve as a reminder that God provides for our needs before we even know we have a need. Not only that, but His provision of a Savior, Jesus, also has another name: IMMANUEL! God is with us! Do you know Him through faith and personal trust? Are you resting in His promises and provision as you walk in obedience to his Word?

After hearing from God's messenger, in faith and trust, Joseph went and did what God told him to do. May we do the same. Merry Christmas!

Jim, Becky, Nicole, Elise, and AJ



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