

Mathew 1:18-26: Christmas Is God's Faithfulness.

1. (18-19) Mary, while engaged to Joseph, is found to be with child as a result of a miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph's suspicion was that Mary was unfaithful, which was punishable by public shame (and death by stoning). Joseph wanted to end the relationship quietly.

2. (20-23) An angel speaks to Joseph in a dream.

The dream came **while he thought about these things**. It seems that Mary had not told Joseph that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit or she had told him but he didn't believe her.

Matthew rightly mentions that the supernatural conception of Jesus was prophesied in **Isaiah 7:14**, 735 years BC.

Deuteronomy 7:9 - *"Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;*

1 Corinthians 1:9 - *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Hebrews 11:13 - *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

All the events around the first Christmas display God's faithfulness; his virgin conception in **Isaiah 7:14**, his birth place was prophesied in **Micah 5:2**, Jesus's parents fleeing to Egypt was predicted in **Hosea 11:1**, the massacre of baby boys was foreseen in **Jeremiah 31:15**.

Faithfulness is the concept of unfailingly remaining loyal and steadily devoted to someone or something and putting that loyalty and devotion into consistent practice, regardless of circumstances.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

Hebrews 10:23 - *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

2 Timothy 2:13 - *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

God's Word contains hundreds of promises for us to receive, may we trust Him.