

“Two Purposes of the Birth of the Savior”

Matthew 1:18-25

John Zheng

I. The Incarnation of Jesus (vv.18-20)

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.

II. Fulfillment of God’s Promise of Salvation (v.21)

²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

III. Fulfillment of God’s Promise of Closeness (vv.22-23)

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

IV. Birth of Jesus (vv.24-25)

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Application

1. Have you received Jesus' salvation?
2. For those of you who have received Jesus' salvation, how is your joy in God?
3. For those who are living with a thankful heart to God, how are you living out this thankfulness?