**CHRISTMAS… GOD’S PERFECT PLAN! Text: Matthew 1:18-25 Date: 12/11/2016 Sunday: AM**

Genesis through The Revelation records God’s redemptive history!

God’s ***big picture*** is filled with small snap shots as HE unfolds His complete picture of salvation!

For over 6,000 years God’s camera has been rolling.

In full HD, God has unfolded His plan of forgiveness and salvation!

**Galatians 4:4** But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son…

God’s announcements regarding His Son, Jesus Christ, continue to echo to this very moment!

Matthew steps onto the stage of history and introduces us to Jesus!

**Matthew 1:1-17 unpacks his genealogy proving that Jesus Christ fulfilled the promises of both the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants as Israel’s Messiah.**

God’s supernatural plan unfolds with the birth of Jesus Christ!

1. **First, notice The Supernatural Work of the Holy Spirit – 1:18**
* **Matthew 1:18** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was *espoused* to Joseph, *before* they came together, *she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*
* The Angel in **Matthew 1:20** says, *“… for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”*
* **EVERYTHING** changes with these words!
* This truth separates Jesus from the others listed above!
* Matthew highlights the uniqueness of Jesus beginning with His birth!
* At first, everything seems very normal and natural… mother, father and baby!
* **UNTIL** Matthew explains how Jesus was conceived!
* **Luke 1:35 explains,** And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that Holy Thing which shall be born of thee shall be called **the Son of God.**
* **John 1:14 says,** And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
* Everything changes… for Mary, Joseph and AND FOR US!
* Things move from normal and natural **to the SUPERNATURAL… HUMAN TO DIVINE!!!**
* **DURING** the espousal period and “**BEFORE** they came together” Mary conceives!!! This was no doubt juicy gossip!!! VERY INTERESTING!
* **POINT:** GOD shows up!
* **WITHOUT** the benefit of a man, Mary conceives!
* Beyond man’s ability and man’s understanding God sends His Son into this fallen world to redeem sinners!
* The enemies of Jesus knew there were “suspicious” circumstances surrounding His parentage. They spread lies that Mary had become pregnant by a Roman soldier.
* **John 8:19 says,** Then said they unto Him/Jesus, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.
* **They concluded in John 8:41** Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to Him, *We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*
* **YET,** the **SUPER**natural trumps the normal and the natural… the sinful!
* **JESUS’ UNIQUENESS** touches and overwhelms them all!
* Mary conceives… Joseph is convinced, and God condescends IN THE PERSON OF THE GODMAN JESUS CHRIST!!!
* **Jesus made this claim to Philip in John 14:9** Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? **He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father;** and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?
* **POINT:** Jesus did not have an identity crisis… the Jews did!
* **As Matthew 1:23 says, HE is indeed** Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
* **First, notice The Supernatural Work of the Holy Spirit – 1:18**
1. **Secondly, The Sacrificial Work of Jesus the Son – 1:19-21**
* **Matthew 1:19-21** Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the *angel of the Lord* appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.
* This is a tough situation for Joseph, Mary **AND** their families… For the moment Joseph depends upon his upbringing as a Jewish man.
* **1:19 ~ JOSEPH’S DILEMMA ~** He goes back to the Law **and the** punishment for adultery.
* Joseph’s Life, Law, Love, Limitation and His Light!
* Without further revelation from God Joseph’s choices are limited! Joseph needs more light, **AND HE GETS IT!**
* Keep in mind that Joseph is a righteous man.
* Joseph’s life is marked by righteous obedience!
* Humanly speaking this was *unnatural,* *unexplainable* and *unacceptable.*
* Wrapped up in righteous manhood Joseph receives a message from heaven… from God!
* **1:20-21 ~ GABRIEL’S DIRECTION ~** Gabriel explains the supernatural birth and sacrificial purpose for the coming of the Christ Child!!! REDEMPTION!!!
* **Matthew 1:21 says,** And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.
* **First, notice The Supernatural Work of the Holy Spirit – 1:18**
* **Secondly, notice The Sacrificial Work of Jesus the Son – 1:19-21**
1. **Thirdly, notice The Special Work of God the Father – 1:22-25**
* **Matthew 1:22-25** Now **ALL** this was *done*, that it might be *fulfilled* which was *spoken* of the ***Lord*** by the *prophet*, saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. 24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep **did** as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name **JESUS.**
* Generations of people, events and time are written into this Christmas script!
* Not one second of history is outside of our Father’s handiwork! NOT ONE SECOND!
* **1:22 ~ THE ANGELS CLAIM ~** Notice these key words… “done” “fulfilled” “spoken” THIS IS THE LORD’S WORK!
* **KEY:** GOD spoke through *the prophetic voices* of our OT!
* **1:23 ~ THE VIRGIN’S CONCEPTION ~** Matthew’s account is connected to Isaiah’s message concerning the “Virgin.”
* **Isaiah declares his Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; **THE SIGN IS…** *Behold,* ***a Virgin*** *shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*
* **1:24 ~ JOSEPH’S CONFIDENCE ~** Joseph followed the direction of the Angel! **Explicitly!**
* **1:25 ~ JESUS’ COMING ~ JESUS** came just as the Prophets said He would… “… to save us from our sins.”
* **Matthew 1:21 says,** And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name **JESUS**: for He shall save His people from their sins.
* **First, notice The Supernatural Work of the Holy Spirit – 1:18**
* **Secondly, notice The Sacrificial Work of Jesus the Son – 1:19-21**
* **Thirdly, notice The Special Work of God the Father – 1:22-25**