

# The Ultimate Origin Story

Matthew 1:18-25

## God's Mysterious Way

This backstory is critical for at least these reasons:

*It validates his claim to be \_\_\_\_\_.* (2 Sam 7:11-16; Jer 23:5-6)

*It reveals his \_\_\_\_\_ personhood.*

*It declares his great \_\_\_\_\_.*

Joseph and Mary were betrothed – not quite “married”, but much more than “\_\_\_\_\_” ...

And now, their worlds are thrown into upheaval as Joseph discovers Mary's \_\_\_\_\_ (and it didn't involve him!)

## Mary's Miraculous Conception

As far we can tell, Jesus' birth was rather \_\_\_\_\_ (location and conditions notwithstanding!) He was born as all babies are. What is profoundly miraculous and \_\_\_\_\_ is how he was \_\_\_\_\_!

And remember – Mary \_\_\_\_\_ things that Joseph did not yet know! (Luke 1:26-38)

This miraculous conception is \_\_\_\_\_ to the rest of the story of Jesus and redemption as ...

*It highlights the \_\_\_\_\_.*

*It reveals our \_\_\_\_\_ to save ourselves.*

*It displays God's saving \_\_\_\_\_.*

*It unveils the \_\_\_\_\_.*

## Joseph's Righteous Dilemma

Joseph was a \_\_\_\_\_ man and righteousness required a response ...

He was also a \_\_\_\_\_ man, and that tempered his response ...

But Joseph was not a \_\_\_\_\_ man, so he slept on his decision, no doubt wrestling with the pain and the implications of what he was about to do ...

## God's Providential Intervention

The angel assures Joseph that things are not as they \_\_\_\_\_. Mary is who he had though her to be – blessed and highly favored of the Lord! (Luke 1:28-30)

God gave Joseph a \_\_\_\_\_ that night – \_\_\_\_\_ of the mystery.

Mary's condition was not a result of her \_\_\_\_\_, but a miracle of God's \_\_\_\_\_!

He relieved his fears of any repercussions or of anybody's reactions with the assurance of his place in God's redemptive \_\_\_\_\_.

## The Prophet's True Word

From Isaiah's prophecies the true identity of Jesus emerges in Matthew's gospel:

*Jesus is the virgin's \_\_\_\_\_ in Isaiah 7:14.*

*He is the \_\_\_\_\_ that shines in darkness in Isaiah 9:2.*

*He is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace of Isaiah 9:6.*

*He is the \_\_\_\_\_ from the stump of Jesse in Isaiah 11:1.*

*He is the \_\_\_\_\_ who will bring justice to the nations in Isaiah 42:1.*

*He is the light to the nations bringing \_\_\_\_\_ to the ends of the earth in Isaiah 49:6.*

*He is the \_\_\_\_\_ who bore the sins of many in Isaiah 53:1-12.*

## Joseph's Great Faith

The only fear remaining for a faithful man is the fear of \_\_\_\_\_, so when Joseph woke up, he \_\_\_\_\_ and "took his wife". That is real \_\_\_\_\_.

But in self-denying \_\_\_\_\_ and in conformity to Isaiah 7:14, he \_\_\_\_\_ from realtions with her until after Jesus was born, thus making the miraculous nature of Jesus' birth perfectly clear.

And in taking Mary as his wife, he formally \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus as his son. By \_\_\_\_\_ him, he declared that Jesus was his own.

## Our Living Hope

So, what's in a name?

"Immanuel" tells us that God (in Christ) is \_\_\_\_\_ us.

"Jesus" tells us that God (in Christ) is \_\_\_\_\_ us.

*For at the root of every human problem, at the core of all human suffering, and the reason for our severed relationship with God is our \_\_\_\_\_. And Jesus came to save us from that. (Titus 2:11-14)*

## My Grateful Response: