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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.  
 This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the New Testament on pages 1-2.

See within the manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth! Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us Messiah's birth..." -"Angel's We Have Heard on High, v. 4

## A. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JOSEPH?

- There are actually 16 different *Josephs* in Scripture. (e.g., Joseph in Gen. 4).
- The NT says remarkably little about Joseph—Mary's Husband & father of Jesus.
- He is never quoted in Scripture.
- He was born in Bethlehem, lived in Nazareth and was a carpenter by trade.
- Joseph and Mary would have to travel 95 miles in the dead of winter to register for the census that had been ordered by the Romans.
- He was most likely very poor and very young (i.e., probably around age 17 years.)
- He was in the blood line and lineage of King David.
- He was faithful to Jewish customs and trained in their biblical teachings.
- Some scholars believe he died at an early age.
- He was "Pledged" (betrothed) to a young teenage named Mary. A sacred event, equal with marriage but without consummation. "It was a sacred test..."
- Historically: There were three stages of marriage in that day: (i) **Betrothal** (Heb: *kiddishin*) like engagement; (ii) **Ceremony** (Heb. *Huppah*) a private marriage ceremony; and iii. **Celebration** (Heb: *Huplau*) involved the honeymoon and public celebration.
- Legally: If unfaithful, Mary could have been stoned; Joseph would not even be allowed to marry her (cf., Deut. 22:20-21).

## B. JOSEPH'S STORY

### 1. Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 1:18, NASB** -<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

### 2. Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 1:19, NASB** -<sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

### 3. Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 1:20-21, NASB** -<sup>20</sup> But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit." <sup>21</sup> "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." <sup>23</sup> "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

### 4. Joseph's \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 1:24-25, NASB** -<sup>24</sup> And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

## C. WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM JOSEPH'S STORY?

### We Learn What to do in Life's Toughest Times:

1. We must trust **God's promises** in the middle of **doubts**.
2. We must trust **God's power** in the middle of **danger**.
3. We must trust **God's plan** in the middle of **difficulty**.

**Bonus: Like Joseph, let these three words characterize your life:**

**Faith, Purity and Obedience.**

Answers: 1. Distress, 2. Disposition, 3. Dream, 4. Decision.