

## ***A Family Doing God's Will Pause 1***

***“1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” (Luke 2:1-8 KJV)***

Each and every family, is commissioned to carry the purpose of God; to live in a certain place and in a certain period of time to do certain task and assignment. Christ although He is God, born as man, shared in our humanity, and for this reason He was subject to the law of God, ***“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.” (Galatians 4:4 KJV)*** Christ was born to the family of Joseph and Mary to fulfill the law of God and for the purpose of God.

Christ born at a precise time, described by the Scripture. In the book of Daniel, when the King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, it was explained by Daniel the time that Christ will be born and the coming of the Kingdom of God, as we read here:

***“31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth. 36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall***

***break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.” (Daniel 2:31-45 KJV)***

As we read, it was described by Daniel that after Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar there will come three Kingdoms (which was the Persian represented by silver, ***“his breast and his arms of silver” (Daniel 2:32 KJV)***, the Greece represented by the brass, ***“his belly and his thighs of brass” (Daniel 2:32 KJV)***, the Romans represented by iron and clay, ***“33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.” (Daniel 2:33 KJV)*** The explanation go further that at the time of the fourth kingdom, that kingdom goes into division and become iron mixed with clay, at the time the God of heaven, will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and will consume other kingdoms, ***“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.” (Daniel 2:44 KJV)*** That is the Kingdom of God, started by the birth of Jesus, born from a woman under the law in a certain period of time where the Romans Kingdom was conquering the whole world as Luke wrote to us, ***“And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.” (Luke 2:1 KJV)*** At that time Judah was under Syria which was under the Romans empire, ***“2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.” (Luke 2:2-3 KJV)*** Therefore, Joseph and Mary from the city of Nazareth moved to Bethlehem, ***“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)” (Luke 2:4 KJV)***

Joseph and Mary moved because they need to comply with the law, therefore they moved to Bethlehem, ***“To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:5 KJV)*** It might not be much needed or mandatory to move to comply with the law of the Romans, but Joseph and Mary moved and was glad to take this long journey, which 84 miles in distance, and it need 27 hours walking, in order to obey God and fulfill the Scripture that states that Jesus need to be born in Bethlehem, as we can read here: ***“Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?” (John 7:22 KJV)*** ***“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2 KJV)*** ***“5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.” (Matthew 2:5-6 KJV)*** What we learn from that attitude of Joseph and Mary, that certain time we might be able to bypass certain rules and requirements, but since we need to comply with God's Word, we still need to go ahead and joyfully do them.

Christ was born at a time that the whole world was under one empire, the Romans Empire, and there was a common language that will make the mission of spreading God's Word easier to all other nations. That important point and conclusion of this, that each and every family should

adapt themselves, that their ministry to the Lord should be imparted to the next generation, their children, and be impacted to the whole world.

We read, ***“To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:5 KJV)*** The Greek word for ‘espoused’ is ‘Mnesteuo’ and it mean betrothed or be promised in marriage. It is repeated in the Gospel of Matthew. According to the Scriptures, the espoused girl would not be with the groom till the day of wedding. No communications would be allowed between them till the wedding day. Mary was pregnant with the Holy Ghost while she was espoused, as we can read here: ***“27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 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. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:27-38 KJV)***

Espoused virgin, is confirmed to whom she is going to marry, and it is considered a wife of another person, ***“23 If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; 24 Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.” (Deuteronomy 22:23-24 KJV)*** Even before they come together, she is considered the wife of that man that she is espoused to. Therefore, Joseph the man that she was betrothed to when he came to know about Mary is pregnant he wanted to put her apart.

Joseph who wanted to divorce her, it is not clear from the Scripture how he came to know that she is pregnant. For sure, he was not meeting with Mary before they come together, because if they were doing that, he will not think to put her aside, for if they were meeting together before marriage, as men and women wrongly do today, no one would believe that she is not pregnant from Joseph. ***“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. 19 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. 22 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.” (Matthew 1:18-25 KJV)***

The Holy Spirit works in holiness; Mary would not be pregnant by the Holy Ghost if she and Joseph were doing non decent things before marriage. Notice that Joseph obeyed the commands of God and took his wife, but he knew her not till she delivered her firstborn son. In preparation for Godly marriage, we need to observe holiness and follow the example of Joseph and Mary and avoid communication between the man and the woman before the wedding day. We need to observe that the man and the women need to not to know the body of each other before the wedding.

We read, ***“To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.” (Luke 2:5 KJV)*** The statement, ***“being great with child.”*** Children are great things that God give to us, because they are the one to bring the Word of God and do the purpose of God in the next generation. Each and every parent should grasp that and work with God in this direction.

***“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7 KJV)*** Swaddling is an age-old practice of wrapping infants in blankets or sheets so that the movement of the limbs is tightly restricted to keep the baby from being disturbed by his own startled reflex. It can also help the baby to stay warm. The swaddling clothes have another privilege over the ordinary infant clothes that are used nowadays. Technically, it can be prepared easily by the mother. It does not need to be replaced with a bigger size when the baby grows, and it does not need the mother to prepare the baby’s shoes and socks. So it is economically far better for the parents. God wants each and every family to be good steward for the resources that He entrusted to them and economize their expenses so they can spend on much more important things. When the angel appeared to the shepherd and told them about the birth of Jesus he mentioned to them the Swaddling clothes in describing to them how they will recognize the new born Savior: ***“8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:8-12 KJV)***

There appeared with the angel heavenly host celebrating the birth of Jesus with singing: ***“13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:13-14 KJV)*** In celebration Christ’s Birth, we need to observe fulfilling the Scriptures.

The shepherd decided to go to Bethlehem and see these things that the Lord had made known to them: ***“15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which***

*is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:15-16 KJV)* After they went and confirmed what the angel spoke to them, they announced that to the people: *“And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.” (Luke 2:17 KJV)* The people wonder to what they heard from the shepherd, *“18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.” (Luke 2:18 KJV)* and Mary pondered on them: *“19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” (Luk2 2:19 KJV)* The shepherds were glad and satisfied with the things they heard and seen: *“20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.” (Luke 2:20 KJV)*

**My dear and beloved:** Let us apply and put into practice the important points that we had learned in this message. Let us wonder and ponder on what we heard and learned. God wants us to bring the good news of God’s Word to the people around us. God will sustain us and watch over us and provide our needs as we agree to do His will.

Let us obey the rules and the regulations, and let us be willing to abide in doing them for God will use these rules to bring us into His will and helping us to fulfill the Scriptures.

Let us persevere to bring the message of Christ’s Birth to the whole world and to the next generation.

Let us persevere in keeping holiness and prepare our children for Godly marriages and preparing them to have Godly families and to be Godly parents.

Let us follow the principles of stewardship and follow the Scripture that teaches us the best way of saving, reduce expenses and keeping finances

**My Prayer:** Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life.

Lord I confess to you my sins \_\_\_\_\_. Let us confess our sins to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to serve you according to the principles that I learn from your Word. Lord leads me to apply this message of yours faithfully in my life, in my family, and in my ministry. Lord I ask you to protect me, provide for me and lead me with your Holy Spirit to do what is right and just.

Lord I pray for my brothers and sisters to abide with the instructions, and enable them to see your goodness through your Word that you send to bring them a good life and life to the full. Lord gives them willingness to be transformed and to do the very things that you want them to do. Lord provides all their needs and lead them to be good examples to the people around them and to the whole world.

Lord bless your church and make your church grow. Help us Lord to evangelize and reach the lost and to plant more Bible studies to teach your Word and your commands. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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