

Matthew 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Joseph is called 'son of David' to emphasize his royal lineage and legal right to pass this heritage to Jesus. The angel's command to 'fear not' addresses Joseph's righteous reluctance to proceed with the marriage. The phrase 'that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost' definitively affirms both Jesus' divine origin and Mary's purity.

Historical Context

Dreams were recognized in Jewish tradition as means of divine revelation. Joseph's obedience despite social stigma demonstrates extraordinary faith. His decision would affect his reputation, finances, and standing in Nazareth.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Joseph's immediate obedience teach you about trusting God despite unclear circumstances?
2. How can you 'fear not' when God's plan disrupts your own expectations?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα δὲ αὐτῇ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ, ἄγγελος Κυρίου
these things But her thought on behold the angel of the Lord
G5023 G1161 G846 G1760 G2400 G32 G2962

κατ' ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῇ λέγων, Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαβίδ,
in a dream appeared her saying Joseph thou son of David
G2596 G3677 G5316 G846 G3004 G2501 G5207 G1138

μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαριὰμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου·
not fear to take Mary thy wife unto thee
G3361 G5399 G3880 G3137 G3588 G1135 G4675

τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματός ἐστιν
for in her that which is conceived of Ghost is
G3588 G1063 G1722 G846 G1080 G1537 G4151 G2076

ἁγίου
the Holy
G40

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 1:18 (Holy): 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.

Joel 2:28 (Spirit): And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Matthew 28:5 (Parallel theme): And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

Matthew 2:22 (Parallel theme): But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

Matthew 2:19 (References Lord): But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Luke 1:19 (Parallel theme): And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Isaiah 26:3 (Parallel theme): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

Isaiah 30:21 (Parallel theme): And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Psalms 143:8 (Parallel theme): Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

Psalms 119:125 (Parallel theme): I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.