**Advent 2022 Series December 18, 2022**

**God Provides the Savior – Matthew 1:18-25**

Jesus Christ was Conceived by the Holy Spirit Matthew 1:18

* Verses 1-17 describe the genealogy or heritage of Jesus Christ
  + “birth” confirms His **humanity**
    - “His mother Mary” – all of these descriptions affirm that He was a real person who lived in a particular place during a specific time period
  + John 1:1-13 emphasized the deity of Christ
  + The Gospels present Him as fully God and fully human
* Mary was betrothed to Joseph
  + Similar to engagement
  + Major difference was that in order to be dissolved, a **divorce** decree was necessary
  + They were married in the eyes of the community and by their own family
  + The marriage was not yet consummated: there was no sexual union during betrothal
* “of the Holy Spirit” (exact Greek translation)
  + The agent of the conception was not Joseph – “before they came together”
  + Mary’s pregnancy was by God

Mary Will Deliver a Son that Will be the Savior Matthew 1:19-21

* To become pregnant during betrothal was punishable by death for Mary
  + See Deuteronomy 22:23–24
* Joseph was “a righteous man”
  + Not **sinless**, but living in observance of the law
* Joseph did not want to see his wife suffer death, so he was going to seek a divorce
  + This would have maintained his honor
  + This would have preserved Mary’s life
* An un-named angel appears to Joseph (Gabriel?)
  + “An angel of the Lord” – 56 OT occurrences
    - God sees a situation and determines to intervene / communicate to show the direction and purpose of the occasion
* The angel appears in a dream
  + A signal of God’s intention of what He was doing
* “Joseph, son of David”
  + A reminder of his **earthly lineage**
  + A reminder of his divine purpose as a descendant of the king
  + An early reference that God was remembering His covenant with David (2 Samuel 7:12-17)
* The angel of the Lord teaches Joseph that his wife’s child is conceived “of the Holy Spirit”
* Jesus’s purpose would NOT be to re-establish the **political dominance** and rule of Israel
* Jesus’ purpose for conception is clear
  + “save His people from their sins”
  + Acknowledgement that God’s people are sinners in need of a remedy for sins
  + Promise of salvation from the penalty of sins
  + Declaration of God’s **purpose** of this divine conception

The Savior’s Advent was the Fulfillment of Prophecy Matthew 1:22-23

* Isaiah 7:14   
  Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.
* God **sovereignly and providentially** controls time, events, and He works all things out according to that plan

Joseph Obediently Followed God’s Commands Matthew 1:24-25

* While he took Mary into his home, they did not **consummate their marriage** until after Jesus was born

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