

JOSEPH

“And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” Matthew 1:16

From a woman Sin and death came into the world. From a woman also came forgiveness and salvation. Ultimately of course it was God's work through Jesus that brought redemption to us but it was done according to His will which we see in awe, mystery and the flawlessness of Almighty God. The unfolding of a work which reveals the perfect Grace that is evidentiary in all that God reveals to us.

Joseph was a man of honor, a direct descendant of the throne of David and he finds himself in a peculiar predicament. It seems his betrothed (a formal agreement) wife to be is pregnant. So he decides to handle this delicately and privately. (the law was specific about betrothed virgins and extramarital activity, etc. . . depending on the circumstances the penalty could be quite severe) but while he was thinking about how to handle this: “But while he thought on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said, Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary for your wife: for what is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she will have a son, and you will call his name JESUS: for he will save his people from their sins. . . Then Joseph after waking did what the angel of the Lord told him to, and married Mary: And did not have sex with her until after she had given birth to her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.” Matthew 1:20-25.

Joseph was instrumental in the early Years of Jesus life, His care we see shortly after Jesus was born: “And after the wise men left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, and said, rise take the young child and his mother, and run to Egypt, and stay there until I send word: for Herod will try and find the young child and kill him. When he woke up he took the young child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: . . . when Herod was dead, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said rise, and take the young child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel: for they are dead who wanted to take the young child's life. And he got up and took the young child and his mother, and came to the land of Israel.” Matthew 2:13-21.

With the exception of the Temple incident when Jesus was 12 Joseph's life as Parent, the role he played as Jesus' earthly father are speculative, we just don't know and have little in the way of biblical narrative to shed light on this aspect of Jesus life. But these early roles as protector and care giver are indisputable.

THE FLIP SIDE

○ COME EMMANUEL

By Latin: C. 9th Century. Translated by John M. Neale And Henry S. Coffin. Arranged by Ted T. and Rebecca St. James

○ COME. ○ COME EMMANUEL
AND RANSOM CAPTIVE ISRAEL
THAT MORNS IN LONELY EXILE HERE
UNTIL THE SON OF GOD APPEAR

REJOICE. REJOICE EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO THEE ○ ISRAEL!
○ ISRAEL
SHALL COME

○ COME THOU DAYSPRING COME AND CHEER
OUR SPIRITS BY THINE ADVENT HERE
DISPERSE THE GLOOMY CLOUDS OF NIGHT
AND DEATHS DARK SHADOWS PUT TO FLIGHT

REJOICE. REJOICE EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO THEE ○ ISRAEL
○ ISRAEL
SHALL COME (X6)
COME TO THEE MY FRIEND

COME THOU WISDOM FROM ON HIGH
AND ORDER ALL THINGS FAR AND NIGH
TO US THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE SHOW
AND CAUSE US IN HER WAYS TO GO

REJOICE. REJOICE EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO THEE ○ ISRAEL
REJOICE. REJOICE EMMANUEL
SHALL COME TO THEE ○ ISRAEL
○ ISRAEL
SHALL COME

○ COME. ○ COME EMMANUEL