

# The Christmas Story

## The Cast of Characters

### *Part 2 - The Parents Roles*

#### **#1 - Joseph: Jesus' Legal Father, Matthew 1:1-17**

Now, I call Joseph that because Joseph wasn't, what we would call today, Jesus' biological father. But, Joseph was Jesus' legal father. That is very important, so much so, that a whole paragraph of scripture is dedicated to this, Matthew 1:1-17.

Matthew, in his gospel, connects Jesus, to two very important covenants between God and the Jewish people: The Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants. He does so through the genealogy which begins his gospel record.

Now, in today's short-attention span world, reading through a bunch of "begats" gets old very quickly. But, even though this may not be as dynamic as, say, reading the battle of Jericho or the contest on Mt. Carmel—this genealogy bears an important role. It lays out the evidence for the reader to discover that Jesus is the legal heir to king David's throne.

Jesus' lineage is broken down for us into three time periods:

- Abraham to David (vs. 2-6)
- David to the Exile (vs. 6-11)
- The Exile to Jesus (vs. 12-16)

Matthew's genealogy answered the important question a Jew would rightfully ask about anyone who claimed to be King of the Jews. Is He a descendant of David through the rightful line of succession? Matthew answered yes!

#### **#2 - Joseph: Jesus' Righteous Father, Matthew 1:18-25**

Having dispensed with the question about Jesus' royal bloodline, the focus of Joseph then turns to his character. Was Joseph a father who had good character? Not all of us can say that our fathers were/are men of good character.

The narrative continues in verse 18 and teaches us much about Joseph's character.

- He was righteous, which meant he understood and practiced what was right, vs. 19 *{read verse 19}*
- He was compassionate toward Mary, verse 19.
- He was obedient, vs. 24. *{read vs. 24}* Also, **Matt. 2:13-15—read**

- He was patient, vs. 25.

Now, Joseph slips off-stage, within the gospel of Matthew, with only one more detail given, halfway through this gospel. It isn't until Matthew 13:55, that we learn Joseph's trade or occupation, Joseph was a carpenter: ***“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?”*** Also found in Mark 6:3.

Joseph is spoken of when the Magi visit Jesus. This takes place, as best as we can tell, two years after Jesus' birth. Joseph is also present when Jesus is presented in the Temple at the age of 12.

That concludes what we know of Joseph, Jesus' legal father.

### **#3 - Mary: Jesus' Human Mother**

Unlike Joseph, Mary was Jesus' only human parent. It is called the virgin birth, because Mary was a virgin until after Jesus was born,

Luke 1:26–37 & Matthew 1:22-25:

The virgin birth established that Jesus is both fully man and fully God. From time to time, I say that Jesus is 100% man and 100% God—it's lousy math, but excellent theology!

The virginal conception has regularly been understood as a way by which Jesus could be both fully human and fully divine. His father, in essence, was God, through the work of the Holy Spirit; his mother was the fully human woman, Mary. As fully God, Jesus was able to pay the eternal penalty for our sins (v. 21) for which finite humanity could not atone. As fully human he could be our adequate representative and substitutionary sacrifice.

Mary took on this role willingly, obediently, submissively. When the angel Gabriel told her of her role in the Savior's advent, while she asked questions—they were made with belief and trust.

### **#4 - Mary: Jesus' Attentive Mother**

- Mary found favor with God, Luke 1:30.
- Mary was obedient, Luke 1:30-38 *{read Luke 1:30-38}*.
- Mary was reflective, Luke 2:16-19 *{read Luke 2:16-19}*.
- Mary was thankful, Luke 1:46-55 *{read Luke 1:46-55}*. Remember, this is coming from a young, teenage woman who is about to endure the public shame and ridicule of being falsely thought of as having part in an illicit sexual relationship!