

Joseph: The Virgin Birth and Prophecies Fulfilled

It isn't until Joseph receives angelic confirmation that he believes in the miracle of Jesus' divine conception. Studying Joseph's experience reveals the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and gives us the confidence to trust God's continued presence and faithfulness in our lives. Joseph's story also provides us clarity about God's understanding of righteousness and the importance of our obedience. Through Joseph, we receive the opportunity to align our understanding of what it means to be righteous with God's understanding, we witness a model of what it looks like to live out our faith in our own personal experiences, and we continue to prepare our hearts to both celebrate Jesus' birth and await his second coming.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What do we mean when we describe someone as righteous?
- What is a prophecy? How do we know when one is fulfilled?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*Joseph: The Virgin Birth and Prophecies Fulfilled*](#)

READ [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In this series, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney observe that when God calls a person to participate in something special, like Mary and Joseph or Zechariah and Elizabeth, God's call almost always complicates life rather than makes it easier. Does this reflect your experience? Do you think people commonly expect that Christians will have a harder life? Or do you think people expect that life will be easier as Christians or that problems will go away when they become Christians?
- Consider Darrell's observation about righteousness from segment 2. "Christ comes in and redefines what righteousness really is. It is not by the externals, it is not by the achievements, but it is by the grace that is given to one to say yes to the Lord's will... This is an option he [Joseph] didn't see coming." How does this help clarify God's understanding of righteousness for you? How does Darrell and Scott's discussion of Joseph's righteousness in segment 2 help us prepare our hearts for Christ's second coming?
- Can you think of examples from your life or experience that reflect God taking the low road, the quiet way, or the surprising way to accomplish his plan and his will in the world?
- What encouragement, comfort, or insight did you receive or gain from this study of Joseph?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Hosea 11](#), [Isaiah 7:14](#), [Psalm 1](#), [Matthew 28:16-20](#), [Matthew 25:31-46](#), [John 16:33](#)

CONCLUSION

Reflect on Scott's statement from segment 3:

"Sometimes we represent Christ and we preach the gospel by being present. Jesus said: I was in prison and you visited me; so we go to the prisons, and we are with them... We are God's presence; we are God with them, right? We go to the hospital to visit the sick; we go to the funeral home to visit the grieving; we go to the widow's house to visit the lonely. All of that is our participating through the Holy Spirit, in this Immanuel idea. So, we preach the gospel by being with people in the sad and difficult situations of their lives."

How and where can you be God's presence here on earth? Who can you be present with? Pray for God to stir your heart to recognize opportunities to preach the gospel by simply being present with others in your daily life.

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