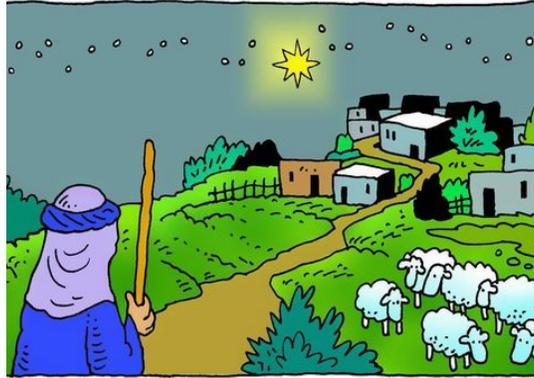


Matthew Lesson 4..... 1/30/21



THE BIRTH OF YESHUA

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was **betrothed** to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

Betrothed: (erusim) a type of engagement ceremony, but much more serious. There is a public ceremony under a huppah, a written contract is signed (ketubah) in which the groom promises to protect and provide for the bride. The bride promises to bring her family dowry into the marriage. The first cup is blessed, and this ceremony is as binding as a marriage. At this point, the couple does not co-habit.

The groom now returns to his father's house to get the couple's house ready, and the bride adds what she can to her dowry and prepares garments for the wedding.

When the groom 's father pronounces that all is ready, he blows the shofar and a procession goes to pick up the bride. A second huppah ceremony took place, a second cup of wine was blessed, seven blessing are pronounced and finally a seven day party celebrated the new couple.

It was during the period when the bridal home was being made ready that Mary becomes pregnant. A violation of sexual purity leading to pregnancy was punishable by stoning to death! (Deuteronomy 22:13-21)

1. When Mary became pregnant, had the couple had relations? Is Mary still a virgin? Why does this matter?

****Is the couple thought of as married after the first ceremony under the Chuppah takes place? Listen carefully for the language as this story unfolds.

There are two terms that can describe a virgin.

Almah means: a young maiden of marriageable age, not yet married, so assumed to be a virgin - but can also be understood as a married woman

Betulah means: virgin

Both terms can be used interchangeably at times. For instance, Rebecca is referred to as an almah and a betulah. (Gen. 24:13; 24:43)

It is important to note that the Septuagint was written some 200 years prior to the book of Matthew. The 70 rabbis that translated the Hebrew scriptures into Greek ALL translated the word "almah" by using the word for "virgin" in Greek. They clearly understood **Isaiah 7:14 in this context.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign; Behold, the virgin (almah) shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

1. Would it be a "sign" if a married woman became pregnant?

The men translating the Hebrew scriptures into Greek, apparently understood that the conception yet to come would be a sign, or "ot" in Hebrew, which is often used to designate a miracle.

The Hebrew also tells us that it would be a specific woman referring to "the woman" both in Isaiah - Ha almah / the virgin, and Genesis 3:15 "the seed of the woman." Matthew is saying Mary is "the woman."

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel.

2. Are there reasons that "almah" would have been used in Isaiah?

3. Because of the seriousness of this situation, what would Joseph do?

Matthew 1:19-23 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying; Joseph, son of David; do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus (Yeshua), for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by

the Lord through the prophet saying: Behold, the virgin (ha almah) shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. (from Isaiah 7:14)

4, Who do the above verses tell us that Joseph is?

5. What is Mary called in the above verses?

6. What about the above verse shows that Joseph is a righteous man?

What does it mean to live righteously?

How did the angel confirm to Joseph that what he was being told was true?

Matthew 1:24-25 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and **took to him his wife**, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus (Yeshua).

7. What do the underlined words confirm about the identity of Yeshua?

What do the above verses tell you about Joseph being righteous?

WHERE WOULD THE KING BE BORN?

Luke 2:4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

8. King David was born in _____.

9. Which tribal area would Bethlehem be in?

2 Samuel 16:1-4 Now the Lord said to Samuel, How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have selected a king for Myself among his sons. But Samuel said, How can I go? When Saul hears of it, he will kill me. And the Lord said, Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you.

10. Why did the Lord tell Jesse to fill his horn with oil?

*** What does "Messiah" mean? ***

It comes from the root word "Mahshahck," (mem, sheen, chet) meaning to smear the house with color and to anoint consecrate, set apart to an office.

1. Smearing of the house with color / Hebrew for house "beit" beginning with a beit.

*We saw this occur at Passover with the painting of the blood over the doorposts

*Hebrew word for son / "ben" beginning with the beit again.

The Son was covered with His own sinless blood.

2. The Messiah was set apart to an office - the office of Priest and King.

1 Timothy 6:15 which he will display at the proper time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Hebrews 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

11. This anointed one, the Messiah, lives in you. He is also the High Priest and King of Kings. What does the fact that He lives in you mean to you?

Taking the genealogy back a step further, Ruth and Boaz lived in Bethlehem, and Obed their son, was raised in Bethlehem. Obed fathered Jesse, and Jesse the Bethlehemite was the father of King David also born in Bethlehem!

Bethlehem would be called the City of David!

Micah 5:2 But thou, Beth-lechem Ephratah (Bethlehem), though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

And now the Son of David, the Messiah, is about to be born here!

In Hebrew, Bethlehem is Beit Lechem / House of Bread

Yeshua said: **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, I **am the bread of life**. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. The Bread of Life was born in the house of bread!

12. So far what has been established about Yeshua?

Tower of Migdal

Last week, you will remember that we looked at the One who is the Breaker who will break His sheep out and they will follow Him. This was in Micah 2:13. The Prophet Micah continues to give us some amazing insights about the birth place of the Messiah, the ultimate Breaker of the flock.

Micah 4:8 And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me, the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Bethlehem-Ephrathah would have been an area of Bethlehem, where food was grown and shepherds tended flocks. They would have slept in tents or at the shepherd's inn. It is in this area where Rachel was buried, where Ruth met Boaz at the threshing floor (Ruth 4:11-13), and David was born, as his mother, Ann, was sent to live here with her husband Jesse, and David was crowned king there. (I Sam. 16) Of great interest is the Tower of Migdol, in Bethlehem-Ephrathah. Another name for this tower is the Tower of the Flock as it was here that the sheep destined for temple sacrifice were born. From this tower watchmen stood guard to warn against any approaching peril.

The Shepherd's Field in this area was no common place. The Talmud tell us that the sacrificial lambs that were sacrificed twice a day and at Passover were born and raised in these shepherds' fields. There was no other place like it.

The shepherds in this area were also specially trained by Levitical regulations. They guarded these sheep day and night, as these sheep had to be spotless and were inspected for blemishes regularly, as sacrificial lambs had to be perfect. After birth, if a sheep qualified for temple sacrifice, it was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger to be sure that their fragile legs were protected and that they could rest peacefully; like wrapping a new born baby snugly in a blanket.

Joseph knowing that all conditions in this field would have been the cleanest and most protected, may very well have taken Mary there purposefully due to the unavailability of rooms.

13, Why would it be appropriate to have the Lamb of God born at this place?

ANGELS !

Can you imagine the shock when the angels appeared to the Shepherds on guard, watching their flocks the night Messiah was born?

Luke 2:10-12 Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

14. What was done to a baby lamb born in the fields of the Tower of Migdal?

I Peter 1:18-19 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.



How would these shepherds have known where to go to see this new born baby? The "sign" they were to look for was a manger and a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths!

The new born Messiah could have been resting peacefully anywhere in Bethlehem, but these shepherds would have known immediately where to go, as the sign of a manger could only mean a manger in the Tower of the Flock, the Tower of Migdal - in the fields they would have been familiar with.

Micah 4:8 And thou, O tower of the flock, the hill of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, yea, the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Beth-leham Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

(Gesenius Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon says:)

Migdal Eder (tower of the flock, - a village near Bethlehem, Genesis 35:21 hence used for Bethlehem itself, and figuratively for the royal stock of David, Micah 4:8

15. Why would the shepherds who the angels appeared to have thought of going to the tower of the flock?

Did they call to mind Micah 4:8 that the royal one, the authority for Israel would come from Migdal-Eder; not merely Bethlehem, but more specifically, Bethlehem Ephrathah - Micah 5:2.....Did they think of the town of David, the home of Boaz and the burial place of Rachel? No wonder the angels appeared to these shepherds - They would have been the only ones to understand the clues given to them on that night.

16. How do you know when the Lord is speaking to you and directing you to a certain place or action?

Matthew 2:1-7 2 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ

should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privately called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And now the political intrigue kicks in. At this time, Rome was very concerned about the Parthian Empire, (located where Babylon is) to the east of Israel. When Rome emerged on the scene conquering the Italian peninsula and Europe and attacking the Greeks in Syria, Syria became a Roman province, and just like that Rome was at the doorstep of Israel. Making what would have been thought of as a good political move, Israel asks the Romans to protect them from the Greeks and Boom ---Rome brings the 10th legion into Israel. They build Caesarea to house the 10th legion. Suddenly, Rome became the power that appointed Israel's governors! Just like that - so easily - Israel becomes part of Rome, and Rome never fired a shot! The appointed king, at this time Herod, who wanted to retain the power and prestige of the kingship. He became a political pawn of the Roman government and wanted to please the ones who had appointed him, as he enjoyed his power.



To make matters even more perplexing for Herod, these wise men were known as "king makers," in the Parthian empire, and they had the power to remove and set up new kings in their place. Herod was immediately both suspicious and no doubt fearful - the word "troubled" is used which in the Greek means he was shaking like a washing machine agitates. In addition to being powerful, these men were highly educated and trained in mathematics, science, astronomy which is the study of the laws of the stars.

16. Had Israel believed Rome was coming in to rule or protect them? What does this tell you about how quickly political maneuverings can change your country?

Amazingly, way back during the Babylonian captivity, when the wise men were about to be murdered because they could not tell Nebuchadnezzar what his dream was, it was Daniel who saved their lives. He was, of course, able to do this because Daniel's G-d told him the dream and the meaning of the dream that they had been unable to interpret. This endeared Daniel to them as they saw him as the one who saved their lives. Daniel was placed over the wise men, and taught them the about the G-d of Israel, the Hebrew scriptures, and he taught them prophecy no doubt using the vision of the 70 weeks, which G-d had given him, and some of them accepted Daniel's G-d as the One True G-d.. These wise men were astrologers - They knew the science of the stars, and with Daniel at the helm, probably learned the Gospel in the constellations, and as Luke said, that there will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. Let's find evidence of these things in the following verses.

Daniel 2:48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

Matthew 2:9-11 When they heard the king they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

GOLD - represents kingship!

FRANKINCENSE - has a beautiful scent and represents worship! It is also an ingredient used in incense and sacrifices.

MYRRH - symbolized bitterness, suffering, and affliction. Jesus would experience all of these as He ministered and died on a stake. Myrrh was used as an embalming oil or spice at burial.

17. How many years after the Babylonian captivity would these wise men have been coming to find the Messiah?

18. What does this tell you about the affects of Daniel's teachings on them all these years later? What words tell you these wise men had accepted Daniel's G-d as the true G-d?

19. What can we learn from Daniel's example?

20. If you were going to give Yeshua a gift today, would it be something physical or something of your heart?

**HOW ARE YOU ENCOURAGED BY SEEING HOW THE
HAND OF GOD WEAVES HISTORY TOGETHER?**

**IS THERE SOMEONE YOU ARE TEACHING ABOUT THE
G-D OF ISRAEL AS DANIEL DID?**

