

# Heartbeat

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 17, 2017

## The Supernatural Conception & Virgin Birth *by Gil Rugh*

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit” (Matt. 1:18).

Today, we would say Mary and Joseph were engaged, although our word engaged is not strong enough to describe the relationship and responsibilities of a Jewish couple during their betrothal.

For Jews anticipating marriage, a preliminary arrangement was usually made by the parents. That arrangement could be made when the future couple were still children. When they reached adulthood, a betrothal took place. At that time the man and woman were bound in a marriage agreement. This agreement was so binding that the two were called husband and wife from that point on. The agreement could only be broken by a bill of divorce, and if the husband died, the wife was called a widow.

Although the union was as binding as a marriage, it did not allow for all the privileges of mar-

riage, such as sexual union. The betrothal period lasted for one year and was a waiting period during which both individuals continued to live at home with their parents. One of the purposes for this waiting period was to demonstrate the purity of the bride-to-be.

Joseph and Mary entered into betrothal but during this waiting period, Mary was discovered to be pregnant. We cannot appreciate the full impact this would have had on Joseph. He had entered into an agreement of marriage with the one he loved, and during the waiting time it was discovered that she was pregnant.

When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, he did not know the supernatural circumstances surrounding the conception. The situation would have been very difficult for both of them. Even if Mary told Joseph the truth, it would have been rather awkward. “Joseph, I am pregnant but this is the result of a miraculous conception; this is going to be

*Continued on page 4*

*Continued from page 3*

a virgin birth.” As much as Joseph may have wanted to trust Mary, the story would have been difficult to believe.

“And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly” (v. 19). Scripture does not reveal very much about Joseph, but this is a good testimony of his character. We are told that he was a righteous man; the same description is used of Job in the Old Testament.

Joseph had two options: he could make a public issue of Mary’s condition and disgrace her in a public divorce, or he could “send her away secretly”—an expression that refers to a private divorce. Joseph decided to divorce her, but to do it secretly and not make a public display of it, even though he had the right to do so.

We can assume from his actions that he had a strong attachment to Mary. This was surely a tremendous burden to Joseph; he wanted to handle the situation as discreetly as possible to avoid making a show of Mary.

After Joseph mulled the options over and reached his decision, the Lord intervened. “But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream” (v. 20). Though we are not told in Scripture, this angel could have been

Gabriel. In Luke’s account, Gabriel announced the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus.

The angel addressed him, “Joseph, son of David” (v. 20). This is a reminder that Joseph was in the line of royalty. The angel continued: “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit” (v. 20). That statement declares in a concise way that this birth was by an act of the Spirit of God in the womb of a virgin.

This occurrence may raise many questions in our minds, but we don’t need to understand all the details. The Holy Spirit acted in the womb of Mary in such a way as to bring about a supernatural conception. In effect, the father of Jesus Christ is God, the Holy Spirit. Jesus was born of a physical mother, Mary, but conceived by the Holy Spirit of God.

Salvation is found only in God Himself as the God-man, Jesus Christ. That is why the virgin birth is so important: the Savior had to be born of both God and man. Christ is the Savior—God in the flesh. We can have salvation only by turning to Him and believing He died for us. Salvation is not found in a church or in religious rites like circumcision, baptism, confirmation, or communion. It is not found in church membership or good works. It is found only in the Person of Jesus Christ.

# Bible Fellowship Hour

## **Children' Sunday School**

Visit the Sunday school coordinator's desk for class locations.

## **HIS**

Studying Deuteronomy  
Scott Bailey Teaching  
Room 1423

## **Prime Time**

Studying Mark  
Ed Daly Teaching  
Room 1417

## **Junior High** (Grades 6-8)

Studying Acts  
Team Taught  
Cornerstone House

## **LOGOS**

Studying Second Samuel  
Greg Thomas Teaching  
Room 1422

Classes begin at 8:45 a.m. but everyone is welcome to come at 8:30 a.m. for a cup of coffee and fellowship.

## **Senior High** (Grades 9-12)

Studying Colossians  
Jeff Harford Teaching  
Room 1430

## **180<sup>0</sup> Fellowship**

Studying Luke  
Bill Cooley Teaching  
Room 1100 (Chapel)

For more information about any of these classes, contact Duane Nelsen at 483-4541, visit the class, or stop by the information center in the south lobby.

## **Alpha Omega** (18-25)

Studying 1 Corinthians  
Duane Nelsen Teaching  
Room 2311

## **One Heart**

Studying Matthew  
Dick Bergt Teaching  
Room 1112

## **Information Center**

We would love to meet you! Please stop by and pick up your visitor/newcomer gift bag. We're located across from Sound Words.

## **EDGE**

Studying Philippians  
Jimmy Pelton Teaching  
Rooms 2211

## **LIFE**

Studying Philippians  
Jim Pelton Teaching  
Room 1419

## **Common Bonds**

Studying Acts  
Jim Mooberry Teaching  
Room 1404

## **The Father Knows Best**

Studying "Taking the Mystery Out of Revelation"  
Don Goertzen Teaching  
Room 1414

"And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus" (Matthew 1:24, 25).

## Family News

**Death.** Brenda Harris' mother, Joanne Hein, died December 12, 2017. Joanne was living in Melbourne, Florida.

**Hospitalized.** Fred Turner was a patient at Bryan West Hospital.

**Thank You.** The second grade Girls of Grace wish to thank those who donated to the Bended Knee Missions Project by "purchasing" Joy luminaries. We were able to collect over \$450! Thank you for being such a clear example of abundant giving!

**Thank You.** The family of Carmen Moser wants to thank you, the IHCC family, for your expressions of love through prayers, encouraging cards, phone calls, flowers, food brought to the family, memorial gifts, and home visits to Dad (Marvin). Dad greatly appreciates the personal contacts during his time of adjustment after 70 years of marriage. Thank you to the Food Service Committee. The food at the luncheon following Mom's memorial service was fantastic, and the tables were decorated beautifully. Thank you to Curt Kuster for your visits to Mom during her hospitalization and rehab, and for your visits with Dad following Mom's passing. Thank you to John Scholle, Andrew Thomas, and Dalton Dowding for your help with Mom's service. We want to give a big thank you hug to Pastor Aaron Nicholson for all

your help and support and for the clear presentation of the gospel at Mom's service. Visiting believers were impressed with the presentation of God's Word.—Family of Carmen Moser

## Children's Studies

**Children's Sunday School.** The children looked into Christ's birth.

**Children's Church.** The children reviewed recent lessons.

## Information

**Used Toy Donations.** Titus Tuesday will be holding a used toy swap for toys in good condition on January 16. If you are de-cluttering and would like to contribute, there is a drop off location by the second-floor elevator in December and January. Books, puzzles, and costumes are welcome. Questions? Call Jeri' Moser at 402-805-1651.

**Titus Tuesday** is on break until January.

**Christmas cookies** are needed for tonight's Christmas concert. Cookies should be dropped off in the old kitchen this afternoon. For more information, call Kate Morten at 402-416-6964.

**Offering Envelopes** for 2018 are available next to Sound Words. They are individually labeled in alphabetical order and may be picked up at your convenience. If you used an offering envelope dur-

ing 2017 then a new one has been prepared for you. We tried to make sure no one got missed but if we did or if you simply want to start using an offering envelope for next year, please go to Sound Words and they will issue one to you.

**Tax Savers.** Non-cash gifts such as stocks, mutual funds, grain commodities, and IRA distributions provide excellent tax saving methods. Be sure to allow sufficient time to make the necessary transfer complete. Some of these types allow you to both avoid capital gain taxes and use the full value for a tax deduction. Contact Jeff Horn or Carroll Lavalleur if you need any assistance.

**End of Year Giving.** A friendly reminder, all giving must be received by December 31 to qualify as an income tax deduction for 2017. December 31st falls on Sunday this year and the church building will be closed after morning service, so be sure to plan accordingly.

**Last Minute Giving.** Using the church's website ([www.ihcc.org](http://www.ihcc.org)) is a convenient method of doing last minute giving toward General Offering or Sound Words.

**Event Kitchen.** If you have an upcoming event that involves the new Event Kitchen, contact Rachel Gould at church, 402-483-4541. She will reserve it for your group and give you an Event Sheet, which will help with the plan-

ning. Questions to Merrily Bailey 402-730-7617.

**Cleaners Needed** for a special assignment and for vacuuming once every five weeks. If you would like to help, contact Tami Coffin, 402-366-3490.

**Lost & Found** is giving away lost Bibles. Stop by the Media Center and see if any of the items in our Lost & Found belong to you.

**Hospitalizations.** Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and notify Pastor Aaron Nicholson or Curt Kuster of hospitalizations and births.

**Hospitality Ministry** needs one door greeter to welcome people at the southwest doors on Sunday mornings from 8:30–9:00 a.m. Each greeter is on rotation of one month per quarter and would serve four months out of the year. Please let Brian Willet ([brian.willet@outlook.com](mailto:brian.willet@outlook.com)) know if you're interested.

**Girls Choir** will not meet until January.

**Don't forget to pray for one another.**

## Last Week's Message

December 10 AM. Gil Rugh. GR 2025. *Angelic War in Heaven*. Revelation 12:5-9

December 10 PM. Duane Nelsen. DN 20. *Who Is Jesus and Why He Came*. 1 Timothy 1:15-17

# This Week's Events

## Sunday

Adult Christmas Concert 6:00 p.m.

## Monday

Sisters 6:00 p.m.

## Wednesday

Praise Team, Band 6:00 p.m.

Orchestra 6:00 p.m.

Awana 6:45 p.m.

No Choir 7:00 p.m.

No Junior High Study 7:00 p.m.

No Issues . . . World

No Wednesday Night Study

## Thursday

Alpha Omega Study 7:00 p.m.

# Future Events

## December 24

Christmas Eve Service 6:00 p.m.  
Communion

## December 25

Christmas Day  
Church Building Closed

## December 26

Church Building Closed

## December 27

No Wednesday Night Programs

## December 31

Peter Barber Preaching AM  
Building Closes at Noon  
No Sunday Night Church

## January 1

New Year's Day  
Church Building Closed

## January 3

No Wednesday Night Programs

## January 7

Duane Nelsen Preaching AM  
Bill Cooley Preaching PM

## January 26, 27

Boys of Faith Lock-in

## February 9

Girls of Grace  
Daddy Daughter Date Night

## February 10

Derby Workshop

## February 16, 17

Men's Seminar

## February 23, 24

Ladies Retreat

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