

JOSEPH'S "BEHOLD" MOMENT

(Matt.1:18-19) "This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly".

In the first three lessons, while betrothed to Mary, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. Joseph began struggling between divorcing her publically or privately on basis of adultery. He decided to divorce Mary privately. We also learned that Joseph had based this decision on a false assumption (adultery), that led to a false interpretation, that led to a false expectation, that led to a false application. He had not considered the possibility of a virgin miraculous conception even though Isa.7:14 declared it would be the way of the birth of the Messiah (Matt.1:23). This brings us to the fourth lesson in **2018 Christmas special**.

This lesson will divide (Matt.1:20) into six parts and six doctrinal principles of Joseph's "Behold" Moment.

1. "But (de) [now] when he (autos/ gsm) [Joseph] had considered (enthumeomai/ a.p.ptc.gsm) this (tauta) (near demonstrative pronoun, a.pl.n) [these things]." (Matt.1:20) (KJV)

1st Doctrinal Principle:

"**These things**" refer to Joseph's internal emotional and mental struggles with Mary's pregnancy from a false assumption (Suffering as the result of Self-Induced Misery).

"**These things**" considered by Joseph consisted of what he was willing to do and what he wasn't willing to do.

It is interesting that "considered" (a.p.ptc gsm) was used to identify the spiritual problem in the beginning of (Matt.1:20). And it is used again at the end with a spiritual solution (thing which has been conceived (to gennao/ a.p.ptc nsn)).

2. "Behold (idou/ horao/ a.a.impv.2ps) [Look!]"

"Behold" is used to introduce a life changing event in Joseph's life by God. It will be **Joseph's "Behold" Moment** that he will never forget!

2nd Doctrinal Principle:

Joseph's "Behold" Moment is God intervening in his life because of his positive volition as a righteous believer. He desires to do God's Will, but he is travelling down the wrong path, the result of a false assumption (adultery rather than virgin miraculous conception).

3. "An angel of Lord appeared (phaino) (Main Verb/ a.p.ind.3ps) to him in a dream."

Joseph's "Behold" Moment was result of a visit by a teaching angel during deep sleep (Old Covenant). Who told Matthew this story?

How many times do you think Matthew probably heard this specific testimony of **Joseph's "Behold" Moment**?

3rd Doctrinal Principle:

“Joseph’s “Behold” Moment was a life changing experience, a spiritual transformational experience, in Joseph’s life (Rom.12:2) [His recognition of the Will of God for his life].

4. “Saying, Joseph, son of David.”

This salutation address linked Joseph to the house of David through Solomon and Jacob (Matt.1:6, 16).

A teaching angel of Lord sent by God to correct Joseph’s false assumption and to establish the Will of God regarding Mary’s pregnancy (2 Tim.3:16-17).

4th Doctrinal Principle:

The message God sent to Joseph by this teaching angel explained exactly what Joseph needed to know in order to get back on the right doctrinal path and application of Categorical Bible Doctrine regarding the virgin Birth (Matt.1:20-23; Rom.10:17).

5. “Don’t be afraid (me phobeo/ a.p.subj).”

We learn that fear and doubt shut down the faith cycle (2 Tim.1:7; Luke 1:13; 1:30; 2:10-11).

5th Doctrinal Principle: (3 aspects)

- We learn that God is aware of our soul’s emotional and mental anguish.
- We learn that God cares about our “Gethsemane” struggles.
- We learn that God will intervene with Categorical Bible Doctrine clarity regarding His Directive Will for the specific occasion because of our Positive Volition. (Matt.16:17; Heb.13:5; Matt.26:41).

6. “To take (paralambano/ a.a.infin) Mary as your wife,

“for (gar) [stated reason] that which has been conceived (to) [neuter def.art.] (gennaio) [a.p.ptc.nsm] in her is (eimi) [Absolute Status Quo (ASQ) of existence] (Rom.4:17) of (ek+abl of creative source) Holy Spirit [NO definite article] (the) => (the miraculous creative work of conception) (**Rom.4:16-17**).”

6th Doctrinal Principle:

God put Joseph through the “**father test**.” How will Joseph deal with MY Only Begotten Son? How will Joseph deal with Jesus as his Adopted Son. The “**father test**” will make it perfectly clear to Joseph that Jesus is the Beloved Son of God.

This is **JOSEPH’S “BEHOLD” MOMENT** of spiritual transformation that will change his life forever in time and eternity. It will remove all doubt and fear regarding Mary’s righteousness and pregnancy and his choice of Mary as his wife.

- I would like to think that Joseph’s “Behold” Moment became one of the great days of Joseph’s life.
- We see a “Behold” moment with the disciples of Jesus when witnessing the ascension of Jesus and hearing a teaching angel say, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:10-11)
- **God can change your sadness to gladness in one “Behold” moment!**

