

The Jesus we never knew x51 Sunday 17 December\_2017. His name is JESUS.

## **The JESUS we never knew x51. Sunday 17 December\_2017.**

**(PP1). (Read: MATTHEW1: 18 - 25.) His name is JESUS.**

Our AIM for this year has been for each of us individually and all of us together to become better friends with JESUS. (This is not presumptuous since Jesus himself has said “*I call you friends*” *John 15: 15* – Christian disciples are those who *love and obey Jesus*). That is the real Jesus – not the Jesus of sentiment or others invention. (Which is depicted so much at Christmas with certain cards and films – lots of schmaltz often). Aim to know both the historical Jesus and to know Jesus experientially now.

**People can have some quite unusual names. Do you notice anything about these 4 names? (PP1)**

*Jessamine Sushi*

*Jean Hies Is Sums*

*Mash Sises June I*

*Jam He Issues Sin*

**They all have the same letters in them.**

**His name is Jesus:** What is an Anagram? A word or phrase formed by re-arranging the letters of another word or phrase e.g. lemon is an anagram of melon.

**The genesis of Jesus.** Matthew in these verses tells us about Jesus’ BEGINNINGS not so much his birth – ORIGINS – the beginnings is actually the word “genesis”.

Matthew also tells about his NAME – how Jesus is to be spoken about, Matthew refers to 2 Old Testament prophecies given about the Messiah.

**(PP2) The child will be spoken of as “Immanuel” – Isaiah 7:4** – the birth will be to a young woman (LXX Parthenos or virgin which Matthew picks up on) and will be called – “God is with us” – Immanuel.

It is the clear understanding of Christians that we encounter God **in the person of Jesus Christ.** (As revealed in Scripture and in person). GOD has come in person. God has not sent a representation.

The focus here is on Joseph rather than Mary – how will the conception affect Joseph. Even though vv22 and 23 it is a virgin conception and the agent of the conception is the Holy Spirit. Hebrews were quite used to the idea that the Spirit of God was active in creation and giving life (e.g. Genesis 1:2 and Ezekiel 37: 1 – 14). Luke (1:35) also tells us conception was of the Spirit of God not a human father. The Spirit is bringing in the Messianic age and not a human being alone.

Joseph was betrothed to Mary (year before and binding to death). So at the Angel of the LORD’s direction in a dream Joseph takes Mary as his wife by taking her to his family

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house (Bethlehem of David's town) and also he names the child as instructed and therefore owns the child as his son. He will "adopt" him if you like and provide for him. V25 **Joseph names him "JESUS"** as he was instructed (v21) – *You will name him Jesus because ... (PP3) he will save his people from their sins.*

**This NAME is a fulfilment of Psalm 130: 8 *He will save his people Israel from all their sins.***

**Jesus is a very common or ordinary name:** in time of his birth because the people were looking for the Messiah and Salvation. It has its roots in the name of Joshua or Jeshua – Yahweh is Salvation OR O save, Yahweh. But it is a declaration rather than a prayer here! This is the OT HOPE spoken of by Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.

**His Name is JESUS and he will be spoken of as Immanuel – God is with us.**

**GOD is with us – present with us in JESUS to save us.** To save us from what? All the things that would destroy us – to rescue us from pride and selfishness and greed and their consequences – to rescue us from death itself.

**The Angel said, "You will name him Jesus"** – it is vital that we recognise this child for ourselves and grow to **recognise him as Immanuel and also personally name him as JESUS – my Saviour, my friend.**