

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Significance

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MATTHEW 1:18-25

Lesson 4, Part I

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Significance



Acts 17:11 (ESV)

Now these (Berean) Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were SO.

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God, we praise You for your intricately designed Word which teaches us how to follow You. Now guard our minds and our hearts and draw us closer to you as we study. Let us study so that we may become *talmidim* (disciples) that are doers of your word. Give us “Acts 17:11” discernment. In the name of Yeshua our messiah. !מך.



Lesson 4, Part I Roadmap

- Joseph's initial decision
- Angelic intervention
- Joseph's revised decision



Matthew 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been **betrothed** to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

References

Heb 7:26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, **holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners,** and exalted above the heavens.

Gen 3:15 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.”



Matthew 1:19

And her husband Joseph, **being a just man** and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

References

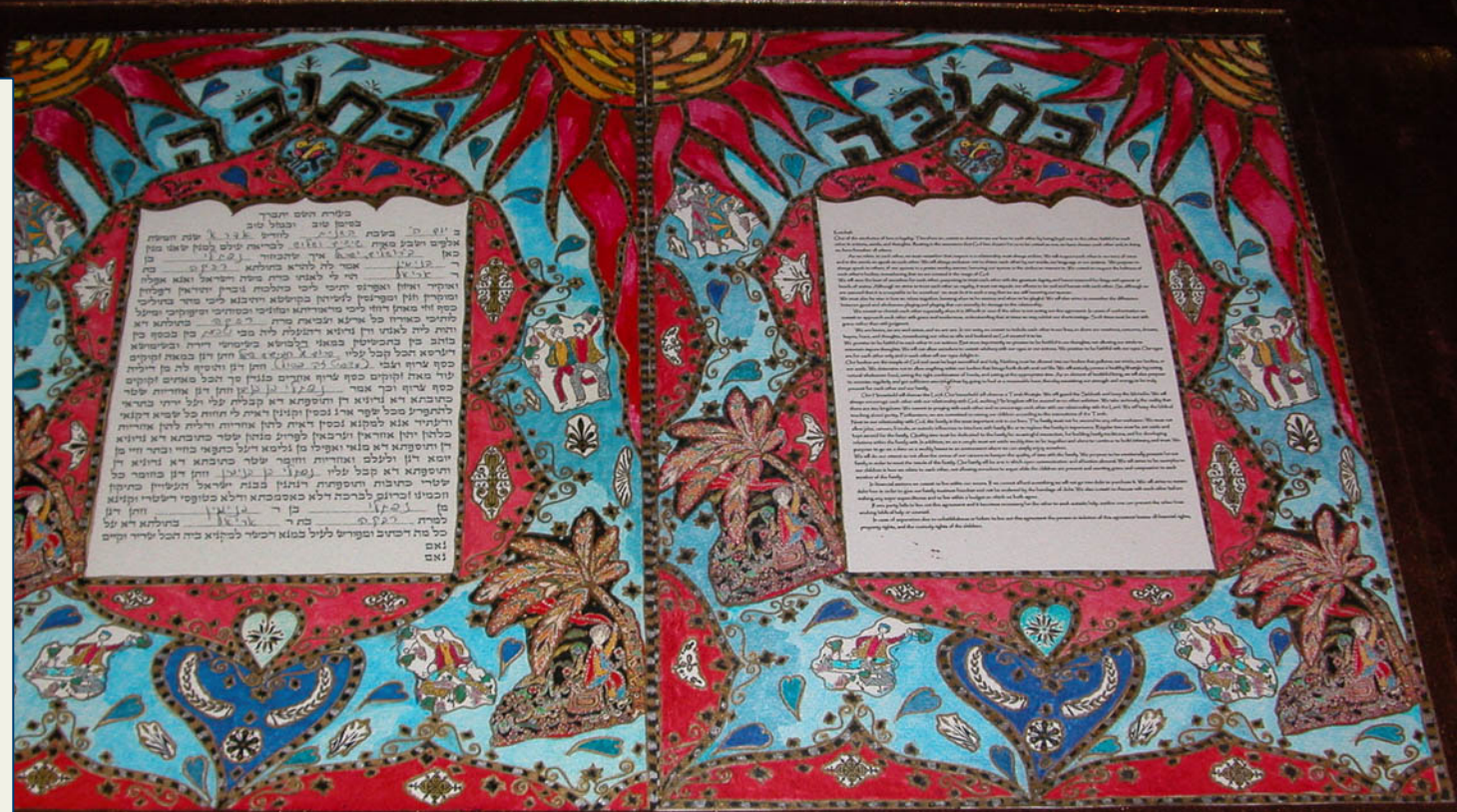
Tzadik – צַדִּיק – righteous one; not sinless but in the sense of Micah 6:8

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you? but **to do justice**, and to love kindness (mercy), and to walk humbly with your God.



And Joseph her husband . . . intended to divorce her privately

Mat 5:32 But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, **except on the ground of sexual immorality**, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.



Wedding contract (ketubah) at Jewish wedding

Joseph's Options

1. Demand the death penalty for adultery

Deu 22:23-24 “If there is a **betrothed virgin**, and a man meets her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city, and you shall stone them to death with stones



Joseph's Options

1. *Demand the death penalty for adultery*
2. **Public divorce and shame**

Rom 12:7 **Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.**



Joseph's Options

1. *Demand the death penalty for adultery*
2. *Public divorce and shame*
3. **Divorce her quietly**
 - Pay the cancellation fee and not press the matter of infidelity
 - Mary would suffer consequences, but not by Joseph's doing
4. ~~Marry Her~~
 - ~~Admit he sinned, when he hadn't~~





Be a Disciple!

2 Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, *that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Ask “why does the Spirit want me to know this?”

Joseph ultimately did NOT divorce Mary, so why is it “**profitable**” for us to know he was considering it?

Matthew 1:20a

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife,

References

Is 51:7 “Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; **fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.**



Joseph . . . Do not fear to take her as your wife



Bride and groom at an Orthodox Jewish wedding near Jerusalem

Matthew 1:20b

...for that which is
conceived in her is from
the Holy Spirit.

References

“conceived” = γεννάω,
literally “begotten”
Isa 49:5 And now the LORD
says, **he who formed me
from the womb to be his
servant...**



Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and
you shall call his name
Jesus, for he will save his
people from their sins.”

References

Mat 1:21 (DD)

אֶת-שְׁמוֹ

יִשׁוּעַ כִּי הוּא יוֹשִׁיעַ

Joh 1:11 He came to his
own, and his own
people did not receive
him.



Matthew 1:22-23

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a son**

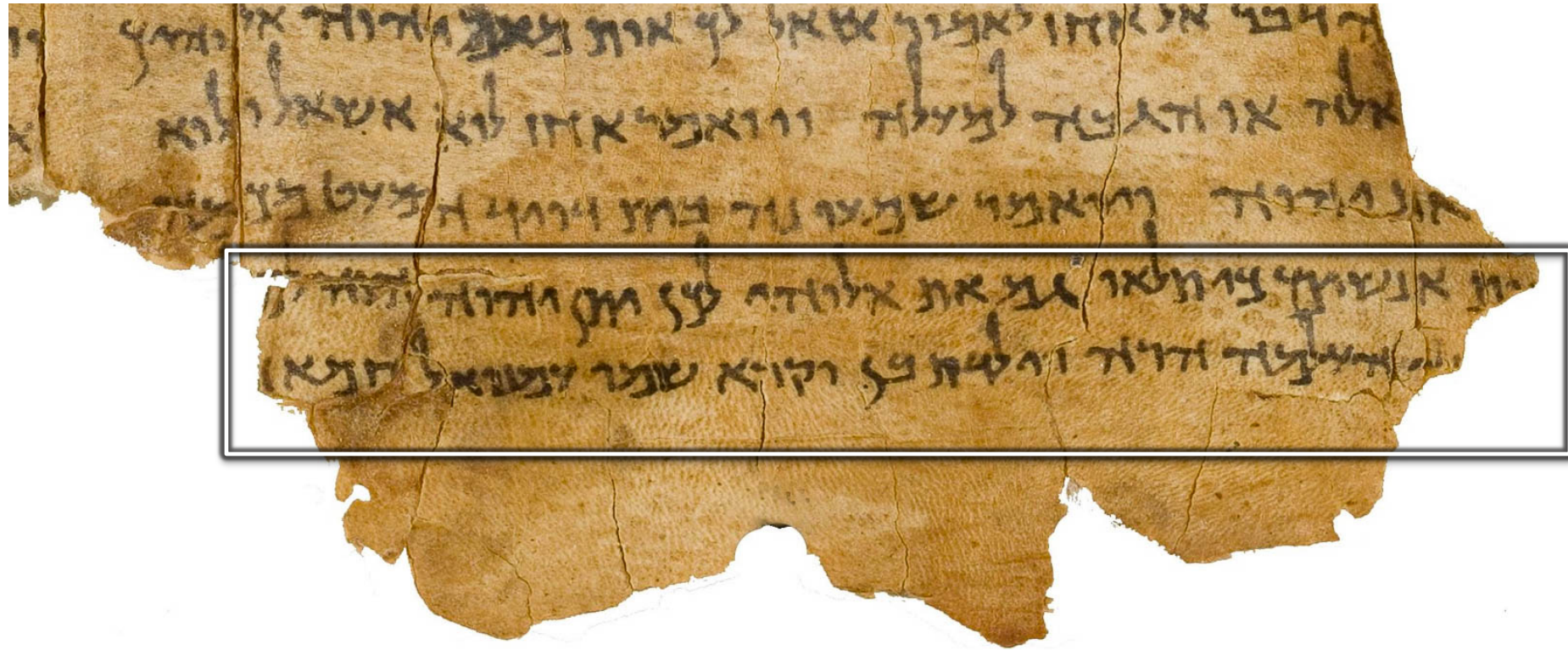
References

Isa 7:13-14 And he said, “Hear then, **O house of David!** Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,** and shall call his name Immanuel.

1 Pe 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect,



That it might be fulfilled which was spoken . . . through the prophet . . . the virgin shall conceive



Matthew 1:23

and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

References

Mat 28:20 And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



Matthew 1:24-25

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: **he took his wife**, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. **And he called his name Jesus.**

References

Mishnah Bava Batra 8:6, 134a **If one says: "This is my son," he is believed, as regards the right of inheritance"**



Joseph . . . took her as his wife



Bride and groom at a Jewish wedding in Jerusalem

She gave birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus



Star marking the place of Jesus's birth in the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem

Next Lesson:



Nativity

LUKE 2:1-38



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