W. L. Seaver Dec 2021

The Trivials of Christmas which are not Trivial (Matt. 1 & 2)

Intro. (Matt1:17)

Supernatural events (14 of them)

1. Genealogy of Jesus (1:1-17)
2. Mary with Child by Holy Spirit (1:18)
3. Angel of the Lord appears to Joseph I a dream (1:19, 20)
4. Joseph's obedience (1:24, 25)
5. Born in Bethlehem (2:1, Micah 5:2)
6. Wise men from the East (2:2, 9)
7. Gifts (2:11)
8. Wise men warned by God (2:12)
9. Joseph warned by angel to flee to Egypt (2:13, 14)
10. Out of Egypt My Son will be called (Hos. 11:1 and 2:14, 15)
11. Killing of 2-yr old and less males (2:16, 17, Jer:31:15)
12. Angel warns Joseph in dream to return to Israel (2:19, 20)
13. Angel warns him in dream to go to regions of Galilee (2:22)
14. Resided in Nazareth to be called a Nazarene (Jn. 1:46, 47)

Life Response

1. The faith of Joseph here (and Mary in Luke) must be commended since there was no precedent for what God asked them. Faith in a great God needs no precedent!

2. An awareness of "God with us" in history, in our nation, in our families, and in our own lives is a real encouragement to walk by faith and to pass on to others. It keeps us rejoicing in His choice of us. May we honor Him with our all!

3. The message to Joseph was that "He would save us from our sins." No other specifics, but Isa. 53 does give more details. The disciples had a hard time accepting a suffering servant. God usually fills in the details if we lay aside our pre-suppositions.

4. There is still the same responses to Jesus today: to destroy all that is true of Christ, to ignore Him and His words, or to seek to worship Him with all of our heart, mind, strength, and soul as the wise men did.

5. The men and women in the genealogy were not perfect for they were sinners just like us all. They desired to walk by faith. Hopefully, these words will challenge us all to live supernaturally!

6. Finally, most people want to keep Jesus Christ in the manger since a baby is no threat. But a crucified, buried, and a risen Savior is a threat since He is God in the flesh with us. There is a choice with eternal consequences. Choose Christ yours and my Savior!