

INTRO: (Overall theme = preparations) This is going to sound like a trivia game; How many Joseph's in the Bible? I found eleven, most in genealogies from Adam to Joseph, stepfather of Jesus. Three best known were Joseph bar Jacob, Joseph who was betrothed to Mary; and Joseph of Aramathea who helped bury Jesus. This 'Advent Joseph' is Mary's husband. Much of what we will learn about him will come from the account of Matthew, also named Levi, a former tax collector and one of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

## I. JOSEPH'S ANCESTRY PREPARES HIM FOR ADVENT

### A. Matthew ch. 1 begins with a genealogy

1. Abraham (14) David (14) Babylon (14) Joseph/Christ; 14 = 2x7, 3 holy sets
2. Matthew's Jewish readers began everything with father Abraham
3. genealogy with Jewish orientation, yet mentions 2 alien women: Ruth, Rahab

### B. Luke 3 genealogy from Joseph back to Adam

1. Luke 3:23 "Jesus...as was supposed, the son of Joseph"
2. Joseph, lineally, 'the son of' back to Adam, called 'the son of God'
3. establishing proper **legal** parental lineage
4. Adam = Son of God for whole world (Mt.3:17, Lk.3:23...beloved son...)

### C. Review three preparation prophecies from the Old Testament

1. to Abraham (Gen.22) in your **seed** all nations of earth will be blessed
2. Jacob blesses Judah, ancestor of Joseph (Gen.49:10) scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh comes, and to Him shall be the obedience of the people
3. to David, ancestor of Joseph, (2 Sam.7:12) your seed...establish the throne of His kingdom forever

## II. JOSEPH'S HOME LIFE AS PREPARATION FOR JESUS' ADVENT

### A. Joseph is called 'a just man' ( Matt.1:12)

1. espoused to Mary, who was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit
2. 'not wanting to make her a public example
3. provided care, protection, home life for Mary and Jesus

3. an observant Jew who...
  - a...circumcised his stepson Jesus on the 8<sup>th</sup> day (do we procrastinate?)
  - b...gave 'presentation' offering of two pigeons on 40<sup>th</sup> day
  - c...was poor then (Lev.12:8 pigeons substitute for lamb if poor)
  - d...customarily brought family to Jerusalem for Passover; lost 12-year-old

B. Joseph became a well-known tradesman

1. Matt.13:55 (His own city) is this not the **carpenter's** son?
2. an excursus on 'carpenter'
  - a. Gr. **Technitays** = craftsman, silversmith (Acts 19:24) or 'architect' of a heavenly city Heb.11:10)
  - b. from Gr. **Tekton** = make something with wood or stone; e.g. Eng. tectonic = related to 'structure' (the builder's Son)
3. Luke 4:22 at Nazareth, Is this not the **carpenter's** son (implies familiarity)

C. Joseph is not mentioned during Jesus' ministry or death

1. at cross (John 19:26) only Mary is mentioned; John as care-giver
2. Acts 1:14 says 'Mary, the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers
3. Joseph is mentioned at Jesus' birth, but not His death
4. incident at age 12 is last mention of Joseph
5. God prepared and chose Joseph to prepare a home for Jesus' coming
6. as God desires all fathers to prepare children for Jesus' comings

III. JOSEPH'S DREAMS AS PART OF HIS PREPARATION

A. Comparing Old Testament and New Testament Josephs

1. Joseph Bar Jacob dreamed of sheaves and planets; fulfilled in Egypt
2. useful God-given gift of interpreting; butler/ baker, Pharaoh
3. God carried out Exodus, Promised Land through this **means**

B. I counted four dream messages to Mary's husband, Joseph

1. to marry Mary (Matt.1:20)
2. to flee to Egypt after Magi visit (Matt.2:13)
3. to return to Israel from Egypt after death of Herod the Great (2:19)
4. to divert to Galilee after warning about Archelaus (Matt.2:22)
5. all this to protect God's Incarnate Son

C. An excursis about dreams

1. many people/Christians have dreams: weird, vivid
2. some claim messages from God (where to build garage)
3. Grandma Bolte's 'end of the tunnel' dream (don't deny the dream)
4. be skeptical; check vis-à-vis God's Word; stick with the sure Word of God

IV. JOSEPH'S ROLE IN PREPARING OUR SALVATION

A. God use means

1. sometimes the ungodly, like Pharaoh or Nebuchadnezzar
2. some benign, like Cyrus or Caesar Augustus
3. some godly like Joseph bar Jacob and Joseph husband of Mary
4. some extremely evil like Sanhedrin and 'crucify Him' mob
5. some little known, like Joseph of Armathea

B. God works all things for our forgiveness and salvation

1. Joseph was a key player in the Nativity of the Son of God
2. humble, helpless Baby Jesus relied on strong, godly Joseph
3. Jesus came to humble Himself (unlike us) in death at Calvary
4. His resurrection seals God's atonement plan
5. Holy Spirit uses modern Joseph fathers and pastors to tell of Jesus
6. as well as classmates and friends and grandparents and neighbors...

CONCLUSION: All of God's Advent preparations have one goal – that we may see His plan for our forgiveness and faith and final destination, which is heaven with Jesus and all fellow believers in Him Amen.