

JESUS AND THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:22-23

Intro: I am mainly concerned in this brief message with verses 22 and 23, but I need to refer to all of the verses from verse 18 to 25 in order for you to appreciate the truth that is given to us in this passage which has to do with the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

I want you to see that in these verses we learn several things about Joseph. Then we learn several things about God. And third, we learn some very important things about the Bible. And finally I want us to see what Matthew was telling us here about Jesus.

I. Joseph.

I used to wonder how Joseph could possibly believe what the angel of the Lord told him about Mary. You talk about a far-fetched message that the angel gave to Joseph *until* you remember that we are told here that he was a just man, or simply that he was “just.” This means that he was a believer. He was saved. He was a new creature. And, as a believer he must have been looking for the coming of the Messiah.

Then, being a child of God, he would have been a man of the Word, a man who believed the Word. We can safely assume that he knew the prophecy which Matthew quoted in verses 22 and 23. Although he at first had thought that Mary had been unfaithful to him, yet he believed the angel of the Lord when he was told that Mary had not been unfaithful, but that she was with child by the Holy Spirit. And then it must have been that he remembered the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, and in his heart he believed that Mary was that virgin which Isaiah had referred to seven hundred years before. And so when he awakened from his sleep, he forgot about his plan to divorce her, and still fully intended to marry her. That is the only way he could have changed his mind about breaking his relationship with her and his plan to marry her.

What does this passage tell us about God

II. God.

It tells us that God stands behind His Word. It tells us that His promises are true. He may not fulfill His Word when people expect Him to do it,

but though God makes us wait for the fulfillment of His promises, yet He never forgets a promise, nor does He fail to do what He says that He will do. God stands fully behind His Word. If He could and did fulfill this promise (as unlikely as it may have been), then surely we should not hesitate to believe all of His promises whether for good or ill.

Next,

III. THE BIBLE.

This prophecy ties together the OT and the NT. Add to this Matt. 2:1-6, and 2:12-15, 2:19-23, and 3:1-3.

There is a oneness in Scripture, and no one can come to a true understanding of the Word who does not take it all into consideration. No book, or combination of books, stand by themselves. The Bible made up of sixty-six books, is in reality one book

IV. JESUS.

Every prophecy in Scripture is important, but the most important prophecies of all, are the prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. If any prophecy of Jesus is not fulfilled, the Bible is damaged irreparably. If Jesus was not the Son of God Who became a Man, then regardless of how many other prophecies have been fulfilled, we are with any hope.

Why did the Son of God become a Man? One very strong reason was to confirm the teachings of Scripture, and to show that it truly is the Word of God – true from Genesis to Revelation, and worthy of our complete trust. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the strongest proofs that the Bible is the Word of God, but at the head of the list of all prophecies, are those prophecies which have to do with Jesus, Who He is, why He came, what He did, where He is now, and what we can expect as far as the future is concerned.

Concl: (Read Matt. 1:22-25.)