

Week 51
350/15

Transforming Daily
“... he called His name Jesus ...”
Matthew 1:25

It was Joseph that named Jesus. “And he called His name Jesus.” Why did Joseph name Him? It was out of obedience to God. An angel from the Lord told Joseph what God wanted him to do, so Joseph did it. Could Joseph have been defiant to the will of God? Yes, Joseph could have been defiant, but he wasn’t.

He also named Jesus to honor his responsibility as the supposed father of Jesus. Doing so, he honored his family. He also brought honor to Mary especially under the circumstances. The verse before this one, verse 24, is the best evidence of Joseph’s intentions to do so when it says, “and took to him his wife.” In short, Joseph named Jesus because it was his responsibility, privilege, and obligation to do so.

It was also divinely appointed that Joseph would name Jesus. That is exactly what the angel told Joseph in a dream, emphasizing the divine initiation, sustaining, and completion of the Christmas story. The entire Christmas story includes Joseph, Mary, Jesus, you and me. In fact, it includes all of mankind (family, friends and foes).

Just as the Word of God came to Mary and Joseph, His Word has come to everyone. And just as Mary and Joseph had a personal decision to make on whether or not to obey His Word, so too does every man, woman, girl and boy. So you see, the Christmas story truly does include you and me as well as all of mankind. The question is, will you hear and heed it?

Is the Christmas story for you just a cute tale about a babe born in a manger? Is it just a part of folklore and myth? Do you understand the first advent of Christ as the only hope for all of mankind to be freed from sin? For there is no other name in heaven, on earth, or under the earth by which men shall be saved, that’s why Joseph called His name Jesus.