



# Joseph Earthly Father to Jesus

Reader from  
Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-15  
& Luke 2:1-7

By Felicia Mollohan

Now the birth of Je-sus  
Christ was as fol-lows:  
when His moth-er Mar-y  
had been be-trothed to  
Jo-seph, be-fore they  
came to-geth-er she was  
found to be with child by  
the Hol-y Spir-it. And  
Jo-seph her hus-band,  
be-ing a right-eous man  
and not want-ing to  
dis-grace her, planned to  
send her a-way  
se-cret-ly.

2

But when he had  
con-sid-ered this, be-hold,  
an an-gel of the Lord  
ap-peared to him in a  
dream, say-ing, "Jo-seph,  
son of Da-vid, do not be  
a-fraid to take Mar-y as  
your wife; for the Child  
who has been  
con-ceived in her is of the  
Hol-y Spir-it.

3

She will bear a Son; and  
you shall call His name  
Je-sus, for He will save  
His peo-ple from their  
sins." Now all this took  
place to ful-fill what was  
spok-en by the Lord  
through the pro-phet:

4 Be-hold, the vir-gin shall  
be with child and shall  
bear a Son, and they shall  
call His name  
Im-man-u-el," which  
trans-lat-ed means, "God  
with us." And Jo-seph  
a-woke from his sleep  
and did as the an-gel of  
the Lord com-mand-ed  
him, and took *Mar-y* as  
his wife; and he called His  
name Je-sus.

5 Now in those days a  
de-cree went out from  
Cae-sar Au-gus-tus, that  
a cen-sus be tak-en of all  
the in-hab-i-ted earth.  
And ev-er-y-one was on  
his way to reg-i-ster for  
the cen-sus, each to his  
own cit-y.

6 Jo-seph also went up from Gal-i-lee, from the cit-y of Naz-ar-eth, to Ju-de-a, to the cit-y of Da-vid which is called Beth-le-hem, be-cause he was of the house and fam-i-ly of Da-vid, in or-der to reg-is-ter a-long with Mar-y, who was en-gaged to him, and was with child.

7 While they were there, the days were com-plet-ed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a man-ger, be-cause there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> Now when they had gone,  
be-hold, an an-gel of the  
Lord ap-peared to Jo-  
seph in a dream and said,  
"Get up! Take the Child  
and His moth-er and flee  
to E-gypt, and re-main  
there un-til I tell you; for  
Her-od is go-ing to search  
for the Child to des-troy  
Him."

So Jo-seph got up and <sup>9</sup>  
took the Child and His  
moth-er while it was still  
night, and left for E-gypt.  
He re-mained there un-til  
the death of Her-od. *This*  
*was* to ful-fill what had  
been spok-en by the Lord  
through the pro-phet:  
"Out of E-gypt I called  
My Son."