

~JOSEPH 8 (494)

(Jo'seph) [shortened form of Josiphiah meaning, May Yah Add Increase, Yah Has Added or Increased]

- Son of a certain Jacob, adoptive father of Christ Jesus, husband of Mary, and later, the natural father of at least four sons, James, **Joseph**, Simon, and Judas, besides daughters.
- Jacob became father to **Joseph** the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. (**Matthew 1:16**)
- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and **Joseph** and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- And his sisters, are they not all with us? Where, then, did this man get all these things? (**Matthew 13:56**)
- And they all began to give favorable witness about him and to marvel at the winsome words proceeding out of his mouth, and they were saying; This is a son of **Joseph**, is it not? (**Luke 4:22**)
- Philip found Nathanael and said to him; We have found the one of whom Moses, in the Law, and the Prophets wrote, Jesus, the son of **Joseph**, from Nazareth. (**John 1:45**)
- And they began saying; Is this not Jesus the son of **Joseph**, whose father and mother we know? How is it that now he says; I have come down from heaven? (**John 6:42**)
- **Joseph** was also called the son of Heli.
- Furthermore, Jesus himself, when he commenced his work, was about thirty years old, being the son, as the opinion was, of **Joseph**, son of Heli. (**Luke 3:23**)
- This evidently being the name of his father-in-law. Ever obedient to divine direction, righteous **Joseph** adhered closely to the Mosaic Law and submitted to the decrees of Caesar.
- A carpenter by trade and a resident of Nazareth, **Joseph** had rather limited financial resources.

- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and **Joseph** and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- Of course, **Joseph** also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because of his being a member of the house and family of David. (**Luke 2:4**)
- And to offer sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of Yehowah; A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. (**Luke 2:24**)
- But if she cannot afford enough for a sheep, she must then take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering, and the priest must make atonement for her, and she must be clean. (**Leviticus 12:8**)
- He was engaged to the virgin girl Mary.
- In her sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent forth from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth. (**Luke 1:26**)
- To a virgin promised in marriage to a man named **Joseph** of David's house, and the name of the virgin was Mary. (**Luke 1:27**)
- But before they were united in marriage she became pregnant by Holy Spirit. Not wanting to make her a public spectacle, **Joseph** intended to divorce her secretly.
- However, upon receiving an explanation from Yehowah's angel in a dream, **Joseph** took Mary to his home as his legal wife. Nevertheless, he refrained from having relations with her until after the birth of her miraculously begotten son.
- But the birth of Jesus Christ was in this way. During the time his mother Mary was promised in marriage to **Joseph**, she was found to be pregnant by Holy Spirit before they were united. (**Matthew 1:18**)
- However, **Joseph** her husband, because he was righteous and did not want to make her a public spectacle, intended to divorce her secretly. (**Matthew 1:19**)

- But after he had thought these things over, look! Yehowah's angel appeared to him in a dream, saying; **Joseph**, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife home, for that which has been begotten in her is by Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 1:20**)
- She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. (**Matthew 1:21**)
- Then **Joseph** woke up from his sleep and did as the angel of Yehowah had directed him, and he took his wife home. (**Matthew 1:24**)
- But he had no intercourse with her until she gave birth to a son, and he called his name Jesus. (**Matthew 1:25**)

See Also DIVORCE

- In obedience to the decree of Caesar Augustus for persons to get registered in their own cities, **Joseph**, as a descendant of King David, traveled with Mary to Bethlehem of Judea.
- There Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid him in a manger, because other accommodations were not available. That night shepherds, having been informed by an angel concerning the birth, came to see the newborn infant.
- About 40 days later, as required by the Mosaic Law, Joseph and Mary presented Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem along with an offering. Both Joseph and Mary wondered as they heard aged Simeon's prophetic words about the great things Jesus would do.
- Now in those days a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus for all the inhabited earth to be registered. (**Luke 2:1**)
- This first registration took place when Quirinius was governor of Syria. (**Luke 2:2**)
- And all people went traveling to be registered, each one to his own city. (**Luke 2:3**)
- Of course, **Joseph** also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem, because of his being a member of the house and family of David.

(Luke 2:4)

- To get registered with Mary, who had been given him in marriage as promised, at present heavy with child. **(Luke 2:5)**
- While they were there, the days came to the full for her to give birth. **(Luke 2:6)**
- And she gave birth to her son, the firstborn, and she bound him with cloth bands and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the lodging room. **(Luke 2:7)**
- There were also in that same country shepherds living out of doors and keeping watches in the night over their flocks. **(Luke 2:8)**
- And suddenly Yehowah's angel stood by them, and Yehowah's glory gleamed around them, and they became very fearful. **(Luke 2:9)**
- But the angel said to them; Have no fear, for, look! I am declaring to you Good News of a great joy that all the people will have. **(Luke 2:10)**
- Because there was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in David's city. **(Luke 2:11)**
- And this is a sign for you. You will find an infant bound in cloth bands and lying in a manger. **(Luke 2:12)**
- And suddenly there came to be with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying; **(Luke 2:13)**
- Glory in the heights above to God, and upon earth peace among men of goodwill. **(Luke 2:14)**
- So when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another; Let us by all means go clear to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which Yehowah has made known to us. **(Luke 2:15)**
- And they went with haste and found Mary as well as **Joseph**, and the infant lying in the manger. **(Luke 2:16)**

- **When they saw it, they made known the saying that had been spoken to them concerning this young child. (Luke 2:17)**
- **And all that heard marveled over the things told them by the shepherds. (Luke 2:18)**
- **But Mary began to preserve all these sayings, drawing conclusions in her heart. (Luke 2:19)**
- **Then the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all the things they heard and saw, just as these had been told them. (Luke 2:20)**
- **Now when eight days came to the full for circumcising him, his name was also called Jesus, the name called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. (Luke 2:21)**
- **Also, when the days for purifying them according to the Law of Moses came to the full, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to Yehowah. (Luke 2:22)**
- **Just as it is written in Yehowah's Law; Every male opening a womb must be called holy to Yehowah. (Luke 2:23)**
- **And to offer sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of Yehowah; A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. (Luke 2:24)**
- **And, look! There was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was righteous and reverent, waiting for Israel's consolation, and Holy Spirit was upon him. (Luke 2:25)**
- **Furthermore, it had been divinely revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Christ of Yehowah. (Luke 2:26)**
- **Under the power of the spirit he now came into the temple, and as the parents brought the young child Jesus in to do for it according to the customary practice of the Law. (Luke 2:27)**
- **He himself received it into his arms and blessed God and said. (Luke 2:28)**
- **Now, Sovereign Lord, you are letting your slave go free in peace**

according to your declaration. ([Luke 2:29](#))

- Because my eyes have seen your means of saving. ([Luke 2:30](#))
- That you have made ready in the sight of all the peoples. ([Luke 2:31](#))
- A light for removing the veil from the nations and a glory of your people Israel. ([Luke 2:32](#))
- And its father and mother continued wondering at the things being spoken about it. ([Luke 2:33](#))
- Speak to the sons of Israel, saying; In case a woman conceives seed and does bear a male, she must be unclean seven days, as in the days of the impurity when she is menstruating she will be unclean. ([Leviticus 12:2](#))
- And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin will be circumcised. ([Leviticus 12:3](#))
- For thirty-three days more she will stay in the blood of purification. She should not touch any holy thing, and she should not come into the holy place until the fulfilling of the days of her purification. ([Leviticus 12:4](#))
- Then at the fulfilling of the days of her purification for a son or for a daughter she will bring a young ram in its first year for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering to the entrance of the tent of meeting to the priest. ([Leviticus 12:6](#))
- And he must present it before Yehowah and make atonement for her, and she must be clean from the source of her blood. This is the Law about her who bears either a male or a female. ([Leviticus 12:7](#))
- But if she cannot afford enough for a sheep, she must then take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering, and the priest must make atonement for her, and she must be clean. ([Leviticus 12:8](#))

- It appears that sometime after this, while residing in a house at Bethlehem, Mary and her young son were visited by some Oriental astrologers.
- So when they had carried out all the things according to the Law of Yehowah, they went back into Galilee to their own city Nazareth. ([Luke 2:39](#))
- Might seem to indicate that **Joseph** and Mary returned to Nazareth right after presenting Jesus at the temple, it must be remembered that this scripture is part of a highly condensed account.
- Divine intervention prevented their visit from bringing death to Jesus. Warned in a dream that Herod was seeking to find the child to destroy it, Joseph heeded divine instructions to flee with his family to Egypt.
- After Jesus had been born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, look! Astrologers from eastern parts came to Jerusalem. ([Matthew 2:1](#))
- Saying; Where is the one born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when we were in the east, and we have come to do him obeisance. ([Matthew 2:2](#))
- At hearing this King Herod was agitated, and all Jerusalem along with him. ([Matthew 2:3](#))
- And on gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born. ([Matthew 2:4](#))
- They said to him; In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is how it has been written through the prophet. ([Matthew 2:5](#))
- And you, O Bethlehem of the land of Judah, are by no means the most insignificant city among the governor's of Judah, for out of you will come forth a governing one, who will shepherd my people, Israel. ([Matthew 2:6](#))
- Then Herod secretly summoned the astrologers and carefully ascertained from them the time of the stars appearing. ([Matthew 2:7](#))

- And, when sending them to Bethlehem, he said; Go make a careful search for the young child, and when you have found it report back to me, that I too may go and do it obeisance. (Matthew 2:8)
- When they had heard the king, they went their way, and, look! The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them, until it came to a stop above where the young child was. (Matthew 2:9)
- On seeing the star they rejoiced very much indeed. (Matthew 2:10)
- And when they went into the house they saw the young child with Mary its mother, and, falling down, they did obeisance to it. They also opened their treasures and presented it with gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)
- However, because they were given divine warning in a dream not to return to Herod, they withdrew to their country by another way. (Matthew 2:12)
- After they had withdrawn, look! Yehowah's angel appeared in a dream to **Joseph**, saying; Get up, take the young child and its mother and flee into Egypt, and stay there until I give you word, for Herod is about to search for the young child to destroy it. (Matthew 2:13)
- So he got up and took along the young child and its mother by night and withdrew into Egypt. (Matthew 2:14)
- And he stayed there until the decease of Herod, for that to be fulfilled which was spoken by Yehowah through his prophet, saying; Out of Egypt I called my son. (Matthew 2:15)
- After the decease of Herod, Yehowah's angel again appeared in a dream to **Joseph**, saying; Get up, take the young child and its mother and be on your way into the land of Israel.
- However, hearing that Herod's son Archelaus was ruling in his father's stead, he feared to return to Judea, and being given divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the territory of Galilee, and came and dwelt in a city named Nazareth.

- When Herod had deceased, look! Yehowah's angel appeared in a dream to **Joseph** in Egypt. (**Matthew 2:19**)
- And said; Get up, take the young child and its mother and be on your way into the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the soul of the young child are dead. (**Matthew 2:20**)
- So he got up and took the young child and its mother and entered into the land of Israel. (**Matthew 2:21**)
- But hearing that Archelaus ruled as king of Judea instead of his father Herod, he became afraid to depart for there. Moreover, being given divine warning in a dream, he withdrew into the territory of Galilee. (**Matthew 2:22**)
- And came and dwelt in a city named Nazareth, that there might be fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets; He will be called a Nazarene. (**Matthew 2:23**)
- Each year **Joseph** took his whole family with him to attend the Passover celebration at Jerusalem. On one occasion they were returning to Nazareth when, after covering a day's distance from Jerusalem, **Joseph** and Mary found that the 12-year-old Jesus was missing. Diligently they searched for him and finally found him at the temple in Jerusalem, listening to and questioning the teachers there.
- Now his parents were accustomed to go from year to year to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. (**Luke 2:41**)
- And when he became twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the festival. (**Luke 2:42**)
- And completed the days. But when they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and his parents did not notice it. (**Luke 2:43**)
- Assuming that he was in the company traveling together, they covered a day's distance and then began to hunt him up among the relatives and acquaintances. (**Luke 2:44**)
- But, not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem, making a diligent search for him. (**Luke 2:45**)
- Well, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the

- midst of the teachers and listening to them and questioning them. (Luke 2:46)
- But all those listening to him were in constant amazement at his understanding and his answers. (Luke 2:47)
 - Now when they saw him they were astounded, and his mother said to him; Child, why did you treat us this way? Here your father and I in mental distress have been looking for you. (Luke 2:48)
 - But he said to them; Why did you have to go looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in the house of my Father? (Luke 2:49)
 - However, they did not grasp the saying that he spoke to them. (Luke 2:50)
 - The Scriptural record is silent on the extent of the training **Joseph** gave to Jesus. Doubtless, though, he contributed to Jesus progressing in wisdom.
 - And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and he continued subject to them. Also, his mother carefully kept all these sayings in her heart. (Luke 2:51)
 - And Jesus went on progressing in wisdom and in physical growth and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2:52)
 - **Joseph** also taught him carpentry, for Jesus was known both as the carpenter's son.
 - Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and **Joseph** and Simon and Judas? (Matthew 13:55)
 - And as the carpenter.
 - This is the carpenter the son of Mary and the brother of James and **Joseph** and Judas and Simon, is it not? And his sisters are here with us, are they not? So they began to stumble at him. (Mark 6:3)

- **Joseph's** death is not specifically mentioned in the Scriptures. But it seems that he did not survive Jesus. Had he lived beyond Passover time of **33 C.E.**, it is unlikely that the impaled Jesus would have entrusted Mary to the care of the apostle John.
- Therefore Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by, said to his mother; Woman, see! Your son! (**John 19:26**)
- Next he said to the disciple; See! Your mother! And from that hour on the disciple took her to his own home.
- And the soldiers braided a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him with a purple outer garment. (**John 19:2**)
- A half brother of Jesus Christ.
- Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary, and his brothers James and **Joseph** and Simon and Judas? (**Matthew 13:55**)
- This is the carpenter the son of Mary and the brother of James and **Joseph** and Judas and Simon, is it not? And his sisters are here with us, are they not? So they began to stumble at him. (**Mark 6:3**)
- Like his other brothers, **Joseph** at first did not exercise faith in Jesus.
- His brothers were, in fact, not exercising faith in him. (**John 7:5**)
- Later, however, Jesus half brothers, doubtless including **Joseph**, became believers. They are mentioned as being with the apostles and others after Jesus ascension to heaven, so they were likely among the group of about 120 disciples assembled in an upper room at Jerusalem when Matthias was chosen by lot as a replacement for unfaithful Judas Iscariot. It appears that later this same group of about 120 received God's spirit on the day of Pentecost in **33 C.E.**