

The New Testament Joseph

Matthew 1:1-16

There are similarities between the Joseph of the New Testament and the Joseph of the Old Testament. Both men had a father named Jacob (*Matt. 1:15-16*). God communicated to both of these men through dreams. God spoke to the New Testament Joseph four times by way of four separate dreams. Both of these men were God-fearing and righteous (*Gen. 39:2,23, Matt. 1:19*). There was a Joseph at the beginning of our Lord's life and another Joseph at the end (*Matt. 27:57-59*). At birth our Lord was born of a virgin; at death He was placed in a virgin tomb (*Matt. 27:60*).



What was the most important thing that Joseph, Mary's husband, ever said? Actually, nothing Joseph said was recorded in the Bible. The last we read about him was when Jesus was twelve and the family went to Jerusalem at Passover time (*Luke 2:41-42*). Joseph most likely died before the Lord commenced His public ministry.

Only the Divine inspiration of the Scriptures can explain the minimal Biblical record of Joseph. If men had written the Bible apart from divine guidance, they no doubt would have quoted many of Joseph's sayings. They would have turned the spotlight on the Lord's home life during His teens and twenties, whereas the Bible is totally silent. And certainly they would have said something about Joseph's death and the circumstances leading to it.

Why did God record so few details about Joseph in the divine record? One reason might be to make it crystal clear who the real Father of Jesus was. Jesus used the term "Father" about 165 times, but not once did He ever use this term to refer to Joseph. He always referred to His Heavenly Father. Even at age twelve His first recorded words were, "I must be about my Father's business" (*Luke 2:49*).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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