

THE WILL OF GOD, IN MOTION

We have been using the Greek conjunction (de) [now, and, but] for our outline of 2018 Christmas studies:

- (Matt.1:18) **Now** (de) the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows:
- (Matt.1:19) **And** (de) Joseph her husband, being a righteous man
- (Matt.1:20) **But** (de) when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared
- (Matt.1:21) **And** (de) she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus
- (Matt.1:22-23) **Now** (de) all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
- (Matt.1:24-25) **And** (de) Joseph awoke from his sleep

This lesson is part of Gabriel's message to Joseph in a dream (Matt.1:20-23/ OC). In fact, there is no biblical record of Joseph ever speaking. Yet he is mentioned four times in the birth story of Matthew by responding to divine dreams: (Matt.1:20-24, 2:13-15; 2:19-21; and 2:22-23) (Lk.2:41, 48; 3:23).

Pay attention to three **future declarations** regarding Mary's pregnancy; and what Joseph will miss if he divorces Mary on the false charge of adultery (Matt.1:21).

- “And (de) she will bear (**tikto/ f.m.ind.3ps**) a Son (huios) [legal action] (Heb.12:8)
- and you shall call (**kaleo/ f.a.impv.2ps**) His (autos) name (to onoma) Jesus (Iesous)
- for (gar) He (autos) will save (sozo/ **f.a.ind.3ps**) His (autos) people (ton laos) from (apo+abl. of separation) their sins (ton hamartia).” (Matt.1:21)

This lesson will study four aspects of The Will of God in Motion.
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1. As a spiritually advancing believer, how do you deal with the Will of God, already in motion, when you are about to decide against the known Directive Will of God?

How will Joseph respond to the Directive Will of God, already in motion, when he is in opposition mode?

Joseph stayed positive towards the Directive Will of God even though he was travelling down the wrong road.

Bottom Line: “The Directive Will of God regarding Mary's pregnancy has already been in motion for three months. If God shows you the right road, will you choose to travel down it?” (yes or no)

If yes, Joseph will need to reverse his viewpoint of Mary's pregnancy and his option to divorce. Then Joseph can decide to go with it or against it.

Joseph must understand and accept that:

- The Directive Will of God has been in motion for three months.
- It is now six months to the birth of the Messiah.
- It is God's Divine Decree already in motion.

(Eph.5:17) “So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

2. **Joseph might have thought to himself (inter- dialogue) – “Look, I didn’t sign-up for all of this when I asked Mary to be my wife!”**

But will Joseph leave the decision to divorce and now take Mary as his wife?

Will he believe Gabriel’s teaching on Mary’s virgin pregnancy based on (Isa.7:14) (Matt.1:23; Rom.12:2; Matt.6:10; 26:39)?

3. **It is important to understand the three classifications of the Will of God and the three categories of His Directive Will (Phil.2:13).**

Three Classifications of the Will of God

- Directive Will Virgin conception of Mary by Holy Spirit.
- Permissive Will Joseph’s false assumption of adultery and divorce.
- Over-ruling Will God sent Gabriel to Joseph to appeal to his righteousness.

Three Categories of the Directive Will of God (over-ruling will side)

- Geographical Will Gabriel was sent to Israel to the home and bedroom to intervene in Joseph’s dream.
- Operational Will “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of Holy Spirit.”(1:20), 23/ Isa.7:14
- Mental Will Message of Messiah’s mission (1:20-23) – “**Jesus**” - “For He will save His people from their sins.”

4. **Note the second future declaration of redemptive messianic history is a command - “You shall call (kaleo/ f.a.impv.2ps) His name Jesus.” (Matt.1:21)**

Name (to onoma), Jesus, was the third future declaration in (Matt.1:21) (See Introduction). **This is a divine interpretation of the redemptive meaning of the name, Jesus.**

If Joseph chooses to participate in the Directive Will of God regarding Mary’s pregnancy, he is commanded to name Him, **Jesus** (Phil.2:9-11).

Before we close, pay attention to the three pronouns used for importance of the role of believers in Plan of God. (Matt.1:21)

- **She** (Mary’s role) (tikto) (F.m.ind.3ps) [part of verb]
- **You** (Joseph’s role) (kaleo) (f.a.impv.2ps) [part of verb] (**Matt.1:24**)
- **He/ His** (**Jesus’ role**) (sozo) (f.a.ind.3ps) (autos) [personal pronoun]

“For He (autos) will save His (autos) people from their sins.”