

What does

The
Family
Of
Our
Lord

consist of?

Leslie Rendell

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Introduction

For this book, I will use the English Standard Version, or ESV, throughout unless otherwise stated.

The first thing I would like to explain is why we should all study the Bible. This book is both very simple and extremely complex. Most people can read it and gain some knowledge of God. And his plans for humanity. It is also very complex, because the more you study it, the more you realise it could only have one author. There may have been 40 men who wrote the words in this amazing book. The source of every recorded word is God, as you soon realise.

Understanding the messages concealed in the Bible requires dedicated study time. We must search for the pearls of wisdom it will reveal. But only to those who willingly put in the time and effort to look for them. Attending church weekly isn't sufficient for understanding the whole truth. Besides this, every religion has its own list of beliefs that they teach. Their doctrines vary from church to church in what they see as the truth. So, since they cannot all be right, then some must be wrong. What if "that" refers to the church you attend, if you attend any church? How can you know what God sees as the truth? Well, it is up to the individual to sort the wheat from the chaff. How do we do that? Only by seeking the truth that God has concealed in his book, the Bible.

Consider the following passage of scripture in the book of Proverbs:

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

God designed the Bible to be studied often, so we can learn more about the ways he interacts with us. The more you study the Bible. The more you can see how intricately he has woven knowledge and understanding together. And in a way that requires us to search for the truth. Constantly seek truth in the holy scriptures, concealed for us to uncover. Please note that God has not concealed these truths from us to keep them all a secret. He conceals truth in the Bible, and he wants us to find it. This is further emphasised in the following verses from the book of Isaiah.

Isa 28:9 "To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?"

Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

To whom will God teach knowledge? To those who heed his words and seek God's hidden truths. We read about him earlier in the book of Proverbs. We must search out a matter that God has concealed. This is a real treasure hunt. If we can seek the will of God in our lives, we are not rejecting him, but we are embracing him and his way of life. There is a glorious reward for those who are prepared to seek God with their whole hearts. Read the following verses in the book of Romans and see what this reward is.

Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

Rom 2:2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

Rom 2:3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

Rom 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Rom 2:5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Rom 2:6 He will render to each one according to his works:

Rom 2:7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

Rom 2:8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

This is the reason we must spend time in searching the scriptures. Looking for precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Looking for the things God has concealed. We must search for these pearls of wisdom. Too many people are only interested in the New Testament,

believing the Old Testament is not relevant to our modern world. But when you consider 2 Timothy chapter 3 and verses 16-17, you see we are told “all scripture” and that includes the Old Testament is God breathed.

*2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
2Ti 3:17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

It is important to remember that Jesus often quoted scripture, and it was always from the Old Testament. The authors of the New Testament wrote it many years after Jesus died on the cross for our sins to be forgiven. Neglecting the Old Testament will cause you to miss out on a great wealth of information that can only be found there. You must come to realize that the New Testament reveals the Old Testament, and the Old Testament conceals the New Testament.

The more you study the Bible, the more you will see how these two Testaments complement each other and will bring a better understanding to the scriptures. As you read the rest of this book, you will see how I have searched for different precepts, and have gone from the Old to the New Testaments to find what God has concealed. Since God tells us “all scripture” is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training, let us use the entire Bible to uncover what God has concealed.

To get a better idea about exactly who Jesus Christ is, we must go all the way back to Abraham over 2000 years before Jesus was born.

Abraham the Father of the Faithful

To better understand who Jesus is, and why his family life is so important for us to comprehend, we need to know everything about his past; we need to go back to the time of Abraham and see the promises God made to him.

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.”

Gen 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Abram, who later became Abraham, received these promises from God. They are unconditional and irrevocable. Abram was to go to the land God would show him and he would become a great nation and his name would become great. God will bless those who bless Abram and will curse those who curse him.

The greatest part of this promise is the last part. Here, God tells Abram that all the families of the earth will be blessed, not just his own family, but all families. This is a

direct reference to Jesus Christ and how he will bring salvation to all nations because the gospel of salvation is a common salvation and is open to all who will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord.

This promise is passed down from Abraham to Isaac as we see in.

Gen 26:4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

This promise God made to Abraham, and passed down through his offspring, that all nations of the earth will be blessed, is a direct reference to Jesus Christ and what he was going to do. Abraham was told it was going to be through his offspring, so this promise was for a time in the future.

When we follow the royal line of Abraham, we come to King David, as revealed to us in the book of Matthew.

Mat 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Mat 1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Mat 1:3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,

Mat 1:4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Mat 1:5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth,

*and Obed the father of Jesse,
Mat 1:6 and Jesse the father of David the king.
And David was the father of Solomon by the wife
of Uriah,*

Abraham's line has come down to King David, where we see God giving David another promise, and this one is also unconditional.

2Sa 7:12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

2Sa 7:13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

2Sa 7:14 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

2Sa 7:15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

2Sa 7:16 And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.

2Sa 7:17 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

As we see in verse 16, David's throne would last forever, and now it is upon David's offspring that the blessing of the Messiah would come.

The New Testament describes Jesus as “The Son of David,” seventeen times. The question we must ask is. “How can this be when David lived the best part of one thousand years before Jesus was born?” So how can Jesus possibly be “The Son Of David?”

This title, “The Son Of David”, is much more than a declaration of the physical genealogy of Jesus and his connection to King David. It is a “MESSIANIC TITLE”. So when he was called by people “the son of David”, they were referring to him being the long awaited fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies that were made to King David.

Jesus was addressed as Lord and Son of David on at least two occasions by those who were asking for his healing power. By calling him “LORD”, they were expressing their faith in him having the power to heal them. And “SON OF DAVID” was referring to his ancestry from David and that he was fulfilling the prophecies given to David that the messiah was going to come from his descendants.

Mat 15:22 And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”

Mat 20:30 And behold, there were two blind men sitting by the roadside, and when they heard Jesus was passing by, they cried out, “Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!”

The pharisees knew exactly what these people were referring to, and they did not like it. Jesus tells us plainly and simply that he is a descendant of King David in.

Rev 22:16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

This clarifies that Jesus inherited the throne from king David. The book further explains the lineage of Jesus all the way back to King David.

Now I would like to concentrate on Joseph and Mary.

Joseph and Mary

When Joseph met and fell in love with Mary, what would have been his expectations for their future together? He assumed their future would be typical for a young couple in that region.

He, Joseph, would work in his business to support the family, while Mary looked after their home. She would do the usual things that a wife did: shopping in the markets, cooking, cleaning and taking care of their home, and this would involve having and raising children. Joseph and Mary were just like any other young couple, planning their future together.

What about Mary's expectations? Were Mary's expectations the same as her husband's? She would have felt excited about the prospect of being a good wife, which included having a normal loving relationship with Joseph and having his children. During that time, society deemed a barren woman as cursed, so Mary, as a wife, would yearn for a family.

There was nothing special about either Joseph or Mary that would show the amazing future they were about to embark upon. Joseph and Mary were familiar with the Old Testament and would have known about the prophecy of the virgin birth. There was no sign Mary was the chosen virgin. So their plans would not have included this possibility. Until the

angel visited Mary with the news that she was the chosen virgin. they would have not understood what their futures would be.

It is important to remember that Mary and Joseph had already entered a betrothal. This was before the Angel of the Lord came to her with the news that she was to become the mother of our Lord. They planned their futures, preparing for a life as man and wife. We can read of this in Matthew chapter 1 and verse 18 and 19.

Mat 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

Upon discovering that Mary was pregnant by someone else, Joseph decides to divorce her. Joseph's reaction is typical, especially in a historical context. Most men would do the same thing in his position, even today. The angel clarified the situation to Joseph, advising him to wed Mary. Which is what he did.

Joseph and Mary did not consummate their marriage until after Jesus was born, as we see from Mat 1:25.

Mat 1:25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Some churches assert Mary remained a virgin throughout her life. This is not true, as the above verse tells us. Joseph did not consummate their marriage until Jesus was born. Following that, he and Mary lived a normal life, like any young couple. Many churches today, which advocate Mary remaining a virgin all her life, dispute that Joseph and Mary had more children. The word of God states Mary had four sons, besides Jesus, and at least two daughters. How do they interpret this?

Mat 13:53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,

Mat 13:54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Mat 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

Mat 13:56 "And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

To deny these verses as wrong is to challenge God's infallibility in the Bible. As I do in any book I write. God's word, the holy Bible, is my ultimate truth. Any deviation from His teachings by man is always incorrect. God is always right.

The following quotes are from churches telling us the importance of consummating a marriage.

QUOTE 1.

"In the context of marriage, consummation means the actualisation of marriage. It is the first act of sexual

intercourse after marriage between a husband and wife. Consummation is particularly relevant under canon law, where failure to consummate a marriage is a ground for divorce or an annulment.”

Quote 2.

Once a marriage has been ratified, IE. vows exchanged in the presence of the Church’s minister and two witnesses, then consummation marks the point at which the marriage becomes indissoluble. The two become one flesh, and “what God has joined together, let no man put asunder.”

END OF QUOTES

Therefore, if a marriage is thought as being “completed” until the couple consummated it. Then Joseph and Mary’s marriage would never reach completion if Mary remained a virgin all her life. Because their marriage was never consummated, Joseph, being a normal male with normal male needs and wants, could have annulled his marriage to Mary.

Joseph and Mary had a normal marriage with normal sexual relationships after the birth of Jesus and raised at least six other children. The clarity comes from God’s recorded words in the “Holy Scriptures.”

Mary The Mother Of Jesus

Why was Mary chosen to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ? There is no one answer to this question, but we can see from the following reasons why she was chosen. In the book of Luke, we have the genealogy of Mary, the mother of Jesus, all the way back to King David, and then back to Abraham, and finally, all the way back to Adam. Therefore, Mary is a direct descendant of David through David's son Nathan.

*Luk 3:23 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli,
Luk 3:24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,
Luk 3:25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai,
Luk 3:26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda,
Luk 3:27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,*

Luk 3:28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,

Luk 3:29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,

Luk 3:30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,

Luk 3:31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,

Luk 3:32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon,

Luk 3:33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,

Luk 3:34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,

Luk 3:35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,

Luk 3:36 the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,

Luk 3:37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan,

Luk 3:38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Mary had the right bloodline to be the mother of our

Lord. We can trace her ancestry back to King David and, indeed, to Abraham. This would give her son, Jesus Christ, the right to the throne of David. He would be the righteous “Branch” that would come from the family line of David.

Isa 11:1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

The prophets foretold and pointed to Bethlehem in Judah as the birthplace of the Messiah. Many virgins may have descended from the royal line of David. But only one virgin would give birth to a baby in Bethlehem at just the right time. Mary’s betrothed, because of his heritage, would be required to go to Bethlehem when the right time arrived.

Mic 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Mary was a virgin. This was essential for the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 to be fulfilled, that a virgin would give birth. The virginal birth would bypass the transmission of the sin nature, allowing the child to be sinless and to be the Messiah.

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

The prophecy of a virgin birth was vital, and therefore Matthew reminded his readers of this all important fact that was crucial in identifying Jesus.

Mat 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Mary could not be married in the full sense of marriage, but she could be betrothed. Otherwise, people would assume that her husband was the actual father of our Lord. She had to have an excellent reputation if her narrative of a virgin birth was going to be believed.

As we always see with God, he starts with the small things. He rarely uses the powerful people of the world to carry out his plans. To be called a Nazarene, or a Galilean, was an insult in those days (see John 1:46).

Joh 1:46 Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

But this is the village God chose for Jesus to grow up in. Nazareth was one of the lowliest villages in Israel, but God had always planned for the Messiah to be raised in this village.

Mat 2:23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Mary was from a poor family and was not wealthy or socially prestigious. For Jesus to grow up and have a respectful attitude with the lower class of people, he needed this type of upbringing and from the book of Luke; we see Jesus came to save the lost.

Luk 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

Luk 19:9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham."

Luk 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This is further emphasised in the book of Mark.

Mar 2:17 And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Because Jesus grew up in a small community in Nazareth, he had the right upbringing and developed the humility that he was prophesied to fulfill.

God no doubt had more reasons for choosing Mary of Nazareth. But it is important to realise she was not holier than the other virgins of her time. She was an ordinary young woman who found favour in the eyes of God. Mary was a good and godly woman, but the angel Gabriel was emphasising her privilege and not her piety. The fact she found favour with God has more to say about God's goodness than Mary's. God chose her from among all the virgins in Israel to receive His grace.

The answer Mary gave to the angel Gabriel shows her love and devotion to her God. She did not hesitate even though she must have realised by accepting this task of being the Lord's mother she would find opposition. The following

passage of scripture reveals the encounter Mary had with the angel Gabriel and when you come to the last verse here, you will see the willingness of Mary to accept the grace God was showing her.

Luk 1:26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

Luk 1:27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

Luk 1:28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Luk 1:29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Luk 1:30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God."

Luk 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Luk 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

Luk 1:33 "and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luk 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Luk 1:35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power

of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

Luk 1:36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

Luk 1:37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

Luk 1:38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

I would hope we could all respond to the calling of God with the same amazing attitude Mary has shown.

These are some attributes God wanted for the mother of his son, Jesus Christ, and Mary fitted these requirements perfectly. She was an amazing person, but she was not perfect, as some may have you believe.

Why does Mary need a saviour if she was born without sin and never sinned in all her life? The only person who was sinless was Jesus Christ himself. All the rest of humanity are sinners, as Romans 3:23 reveals to us.

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

And therefore Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, made the following comments in the book of Luke.

Luk 1:46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,”

Luk 1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

Yes, even Mary needed a saviour and that turns out to be her very own Son Jesus Christ.

So now let us turn our attention to Joseph, the legal, though not biological, father of our Lord.

Joseph The Legal Father of Jesus

According to the book of Matthew, Joseph's genealogy also traces back to King David, but through David's other son, Solomon. This means that both Joseph and Mary are direct descendants of King David.

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Mat 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Mat 1:2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

Mat 1:3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,

Mat 1:4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,

Mat 1:5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

Mat 1:6 and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

Mat 1:7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,

Mat 1:8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,

Mat 1:9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Mat 1:10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,

Mat 1:11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

Mat 1:12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

Mat 1:13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,

Mat 1:14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,

Mat 1:15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,

Mat 1:16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

Therefore, Joseph was a perfect match for Mary, as they both were descendants of King David. What are the chances of these two people, living in Nazareth, finding each

other and agreeing to marry? This is surely the plan of God coming to fulfilment.

From this is we can plainly see Joseph was the heir to sit on David's throne as the king of Israel. He may not have felt or looked like a king, but this is exactly what he was. Therefore, Jesus was called a king. He inherited the throne of David from his legal father, Joseph and from the bloodline of his mother, Mary.

If you have ever wondered why Joseph is not mentioned after Jesus began his public ministry, the answer to that question is that Jesus could not claim the throne while his father, Joseph, was still alive. As we know and understand, even today, the king must die before the legal heir to the throne can claim the title as king. Therefore, Joseph had to die before Jesus began his public ministry, so Jesus could rightfully claim to be the King.

Do you see the amazing connection between Joseph and Mary? They are both descendants of King David, to whom the promise of the Messiah was to come. How perfect is this? The only two people who were direct descendants of David. Found each other and became the parents of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Few people realise Joseph was in line to sit on the throne of King David. Jesus' legal title to the throne of King David was through Joseph. But his blood title to the throne was through Mary.

The apostle Paul makes it very clear in verse 3 below that Jesus was a descendant of King David.

Rom 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called

*to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,
Rom 1:2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,
Rom 1:3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh
Rom 1:4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*

We can find one passage in the bible that sums up what Jesus has done for us, proves that the promises God made to Abraham, and later to David were all fulfilled in Jesus.

Heb 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Heb 2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Now we must look at the betrothal of these two amazing people.

The Betrothal of Joseph and Mary

Understanding the meaning of the term betrothed in the days when Joseph and Mary were pledged to be married is vital. The term today simply means to be engaged to be married. The engaged couple can lawfully break this non-binding engagement. When Joseph and Mary were in a state of betrothal to each other, it was not the case.

The true meaning of the term “betrothed” should have us wondering about the enormity of what we are not understanding. To accept the meaning of betrothed as we do today is to miss out on a crucial point that changes everything about the marriage of Joseph and Mary. Once they became betrothed, they were legally married, and the only way to dissolve this betrothal was through a divorce. They could not simply walk away from their obligations to each other.

In ancient Jewish culture, there were two steps involved in a marriage. First was the betrothal that could last for a year or more. During this time, the husband would prepare a place for them to live and the wife would make herself ready for the marriage ceremony.

This was the case for Joseph and Mary. They were legally married. That is why Joseph was called Mary’s husband, and Mary was Joseph’s wife. They could not

consummate their marriage until the second step of the process of marriage had taken place. Once Joseph had completed his task of preparing a place for them to live, he would collect his bride and they would have the actual marriage ceremony and celebration. Only after this could they legally consummate their marriage.

The timing of their betrothal and marriage is critical to understanding the true story of Mary and when and how she became pregnant with our Lord Jesus. The book of Matthew records the narrative. I have written about some of this earlier, but I need to repeat it here to make this as clear as possible.

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Mat 1:19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

Mat 1:20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

Mat 1:21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Mat 1:22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

Mat 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and

*bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel," (which means, God with us).
Mat 1:24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,
Mat 1:25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

Joseph entered a betrothal with Mary. They were legally married and Mary was still a virgin, as we see in verse 18. This is when Mary became pregnant with Jesus. Then the disappointed Joseph was about to divorce Mary as the only way to break their betrothal legally, as verse 19 tells us. Joseph was told in a dream to take Mary as his wife because the baby she carried was from the Holy Spirit.

Joseph obeyed the angels' advice and continued the marriage process and formalised their marriage, except for one very important point. He did not consummate their marriage until after Jesus was born. This was to ensure Mary was a virgin right up to the time Jesus was born.

The Catholic church and others claim Mary remained a virgin all her life. This is contrary to what we learn from the scriptures. Read verse 25 in the following versions of the bible to see exactly what this verse is telling us.

(AFV) But he did not have sexual relations with her until after she had given birth to her Son, the firstborn; and he called His name Jesus.

(BBE) And he had no connection with her till she had given birth to a son; and he gave him the name Jesus.

(ESV) but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

(ISV) He did not have marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son; and he named him Jesus.

(MKJV) and did not know her until she bore her son, the First-born. And he called His name JESUS.

(MSG) But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

(NIRV) But he did not make love to her until after she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

(WEB) and didn't know her sexually until she had given birth to her firstborn son. He named him Jesus.

It should be obvious from these versions of verse 25 that after Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary had a normal sexual relationship. Those who claim Mary was a virgin for life dismiss all this and refuse to accept what God has revealed in his holy scriptures. More proof of this will follow later in the next chapter of this book..

Knowing the original order and steps of the Jewish marriage helps us to better understand these verses even more. The betrothal had taken place before Mary became pregnant, but the actual marriage ceremony had not. Joseph continues with the marriage ceremony, but they did not

consummate their marriage until after Jesus was born. Mary was married, but she remained a virgin until Jesus was born.

This all shows that Jesus's parents faithfully raised him and fulfilled their marriage vows and obligations to each other and, most importantly, to God.

Brothers and Sisters of Jesus

This is a crucial point where countless individuals have presented ideas and theories for centuries. As usual, I will only consider the evidence provided to us in the holy scriptures. The question we must answer here correctly is. “Did Joseph and Mary have any other children apart from Jesus?”. This question has three primary schools of thought.

1. The brothers of Jesus mentioned several times in the Bible belong to Joseph from a previous marriage to Mary.

2. The brothers and sisters were all adopted by Joseph before he married Mary.

3. The last possibility is Joseph and Mary had these children by the natural union of a man and his wife after sexual intercourse.

The first possibility of Joseph having these children from an earlier marriage simply does not stand up for one excellent reason. In the chapter “Joseph the legal father of Jesus” I said Jesus could not claim the throne of David until Joseph had died. If Joseph had other sons, one of them would inherit the throne before Jesus because he would have been older and therefore the one to inherit the throne. This disproves the idea Joseph had other children from a previous

marriage.

The second option is essentially identical to the first option. Any children legally adopted into Joseph's family would have the same privileges as a son conceived naturally. This was the law 2000 years ago. This suggests the oldest adopted child would have a stronger claim to David's throne than Jesus would.

This leaves only option three. That Joseph and Mary had a normal sexual relationship after Jesus was born and the Brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the Bible are his actual brothers and sisters. Or maybe, more accurately, his half brothers and sisters. Definitely not from a previous marriage and equally not from adoption.

The previous chapter, "The Betrothal of Joseph and Mary," should have cleared up the false teaching that Mary remained a virgin all her life.

I have one more thought to add to this, but I cannot prove it. But I believe it is worth mentioning here. Why would God complicate the birth of his son by using a previously married man to be the legal father of our Lord? My thoughts on this matter are that Joseph would have also been a virgin to keep the marriage bed pure and undefiled. God would have handpicked Joseph to be the legal father of Jesus. Therefore, his life before marrying Mary would not have come with "extra baggage" as we would describe it today.

Jesus Christ was the first-born child of Mary. The rest of her children were from a normal marital relationship with Joseph. The following scriptures are evidence of Jesus having brothers and sisters. Starting in the book of John.

Joh 2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Joh 2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum, with his mother and his brothers and his disciples, and they stayed there for a few days.

This is immediately after Jesus performed his first miracle of turning water into wine. The next example is when Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth. Keep in mind, Nazareth was a small village where Joseph and Mary lived for a while. Therefore, the villagers knew them very well. Everyone living there would have known their family very well. There would be no question about Jesus having brothers, as they would have witnessed Mary's pregnancy with all her children. Read this very revealing passage of scripture from the book of Mark.

Mar 6:1 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him.

Mar 6:2 And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands?"

Mar 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Mar 6:4 And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household."

The book of Matthew retells this story.

Mat 13:53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there,

Mat 13:54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

Mat 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas?

Mat 13:56 "And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

Mat 13:57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household."

Notice the last verse in both passages of scripture. There is no honor for a prophet in his hometown or in his own household. His household members were his brothers, as Joseph and Mary were aware of Jesus' true identity prior to his birth. The passages suggest Jesus had brothers and sisters, who were the biological offspring of Joseph and Mary. These people, who also lived in Nazareth and knew the family of Joseph and Mary very well, believed and vocalised this thought that they had other children apart from Jesus.

Before this event in Matthew, the text mentions Jesus' brothers again.

Mat 12:46 (NIV) While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood

outside, wanting to speak to him.

Mat 12:47 (NIV) Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you."

Then back in the book of Mark, we see both his brothers and sisters standing outside where Jesus was preaching and wanting to talk to him.

Mar 3:31 (WEB) His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent to him, calling him.

Mar 3:32 (WEB) A multitude was sitting around him, and they told him, "Behold, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside looking for you."

After Jesus's resurrection, his brothers believed he was the Son of God, as illustrated in the book of Acts.

Act 1:13 And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James.

Act 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Later in the book of Galatians, Paul refers to James as the brother of the Lord.

Gal 1:18 Then after three years I went up to

Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

Gal 1:19 But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

It is worth noting that Jesus' siblings also married, as mentioned in 1 Corinthians.

1Co 9:3 This is my defense to those who would examine me.

1Co 9:4 Do we not have the right to eat and drink?

1Co 9:5 Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?

The brothers of the Lord brought their wives with them, which adds another interesting level to our Lord's family. If his brothers and sisters married, they would undoubtedly have had children who would be Jesus' nieces and nephews. Then, one more fact reveals itself to us.

Joh 19:25 but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Here, by the cross, was the mother of Jesus and her sister. Therefore, this sister of Mary can only be an auntie of Jesus. When examining our Lord's family structure, we can see a typical family for that period.

It is my belief we only see the one side of Jesus. We do not consider he may have had a very ordinary life when he was not preaching. His public ministry did not begin until he was around 30 years of age. Therefore, he lived with his

brothers and sisters, his auntie and maybe an uncle or two. He could have played with his nieces and nephews the same as most uncles do today.

Jesus was not strutting around with a “holier than thou” attitude. He would have enjoyed a very loving relationship with his family.

Conclusion

My aim in this book was to reveal some facts about the life and family of our Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe there are some things here that you have never considered before, such as.

1. Joseph was a direct descendant of King David through his son Solomon, and was in line to inherit the throne of David.

2. Mary was also a direct descendant of King David through his other son Nathan.

3. This made Joseph and Mary the perfect couple to raise God's only son, Jesus Christ.

4. Mary was not born free of sin. She was exactly the same as any other virgin of her time.

5. Mary needed a saviour like everyone else. Luke 1:47.

6. After Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary had other children through normal sexual relations. The brothers are all named in Matthew 13:55 as James and Joseph and Simon and Judas. In verse 56, there is also a mention of at least 2 sisters.

7. The siblings of Jesus were married, and no doubt had their own children who would have been nieces and nephews of Jesus.

8. Jesus had at least one auntie, as we see in John 19:25 (ESV)

9. Before Jesus could claim the throne of David, Joseph, his legal father, had to die. This is the reason Joseph does not appear during the latter part of our Lord's ministry.

I stated in the Introduction to this book in the book of Proverbs that God has concealed things and it is our duty to find them. The Book of Isaiah further reinforces this idea, instructing us to search for precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little.

I hope I have shown you some aspects of our Lord's life you may not have considered before. His life was both ordinary and then extraordinary.

About The Author

Leslie Rendell has always believed in the existence of Almighty God. But it is only in the last 34 years that he has become more dedicated to researching the Holy Bible to find answers to his own questions.

We all have our own personal question to ask as we wonder why things are a certain way in our lives, and in the lives of other people as well. Leslie has always relied only on the Bible for his answers to religious questions because this is the only place one can expect to find the truth. The thoughts and teachings of any man, church, or religion, mean nothing to him.

If there is a conflict between what man claims to be right, and what God has had recorded in his holy scriptures, then the word of God will always be regarded as correct. The traditions of man, no matter who he is, will never be seen as more important, or more authoritative than the words in the Bible.

This is the way Leslie has always written, and will continue to write, as he seeks to find answers to his own questions that will hopefully also help to answer questions other Christians, and Non-Christians, may have.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY