Joseph – the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. 2025 Fathers Day.

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­of all the men in history ……………….. why did God the Father choose Joseph to raise ”the Word made flesh”. Father Son Holy Spirit – the ONE God. “Let US make man in our own image,” we are also triune people – mind, soul, spirit in a body 80% liquid held together by bones, flesh/red earth, skin – enlivened by the blood that flows through us and bring physical life to our bodies – we are Gods creation in a body of earth.

 in His love for His creation, Gods way of rescuing us - the creation that God loves - God came to live our lives and, how could eternity fit in with this us –

(Hebrew 10:5-7) “a body you have prepared for Me”.

The beloved of the Father came .

as God breathed the breath of life into the clay man so God breathed the Spirit into the womb of Mary and the egg became a living being – “a body you have prepared for me!”

“God sent the son into the world so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but has eternal life!” (1 John 4:9. John 3:16.)

*the first Adam was created clean, he chose to walk in his own ways –*

*Jesus is the second Adam – born clean of rebellion – he chose to walk in God the Fathers ways.*.

Jesus, born of Mary, subject to Joseph – Jesus the King of Kings the Lord of Lords, the eternal one, humanities only chance of – of being what we were created to be.

To become Jesus bride, God children. He will save his people from their sins.

Who was to raise this boy – to guide him – teach him – to be his earthly father – *who would you choose- who would I choose - to adopt your baby and love and cherish and* grow *them!*

What did God see in Joseph………

Computer estimates that in the past 5000 years there have been 55 billion men born.

Current estimate 8 billion men on earth

At the time of Joseph – some 170 million men on the earth.

*So what is unique about the human man Joseph?????? 1 in 170 million – 1 in 55 billion men.*

**The man Joseph**

We can look at the record of his life and hereditary and the man that he showed himself to be –

A working family man living in this world.

Not some travesty of Mythology like Hercules – physical result of union between a ‘god ‘and a woman but a man born new – not tainted by the sin of humanity – the first Adam blew it by choosing his own will, his own desires the second Adam (Romans 5:12-21. 1. Corinthians 15:21-22,45-50) – Jesus - was born clean of this taint and came to do the will of the Father.

Joseph was a tradesman – a carpenter – Jesus followed in his trade – Joseph raised the children in the church and religion of the Jewish faith. He was compassionate and caring. Yet so are millions of other men!

Joseph knew Gods voice – he obeyed instantly – in his inner being he knew God the Father, the origin and source of all. The only “I AM”.

Lets go back to the beginning: GODS TICK LIST

**Hereditory -**

Matthew 1:1-16. Tribe of Judah …………Luke 3:23 back to Adam.

The Gospel of Matthew presents Joseph's genealogy in the opening chapter, tracing his lineage through the royal line of David. This genealogy is structured to emphasize Jesus' legal right to the throne of David, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah's descent. [Matthew 1:1-16](https://biblehub.com/matthew/1.htm) begins with Abraham and proceeds through notable figures such as Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and King David, eventually reaching Joseph. Jesus was born into a royal line – “King of Kings, Lord of Lords.”

[Luke 3:23-38](https://biblehub.com/luke/3-23.htm) , which traces Joseph back to Adam. Unlike Matthew, Luke's genealogy is presented in reverse order, beginning with Jesus and moving backward through history. This account emphasizes Jesus' connection to all humanity, highlighting His role as the Saviour for both Jews and Gentiles.

The genealogies of Joseph in Matthew and Luke serve to affirm Jesus' messianic credentials. By tracing Joseph's lineage to David, both Gospels underscore the fulfillment of the prophecies that the Messiah would come from the house of David. This connection is crucial for understanding Jesus' identity and mission as the promised King and Saviour.

Furthermore, the genealogies highlight the divine orchestration of history, demonstrating God's faithfulness in preserving the line through which the Messiah would come. Joseph's role, though often understated, is pivotal in the unfolding of God's redemptive plan, **as he provides the legal and protective framework for Jesus' early life.**
In summary, Joseph's genealogy as presented in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke offers profound insights into the fulfillment of biblical prophecy and the divine nature of Jesus' mission. Through Joseph, Jesus is firmly rooted in the history and promises of Israel, while also being positioned as the Saviour for all humanity.

Priestly line. Joseph was not of the line of Arron the priestly line but is connect to the priestly line through his heritory. The book of Hebrews emphasis that Jesus priestly line is not that of Arron – the Jewish tribe appointed as priest because they were under law and operated through law and punishment. Jesus priestly role was inaugurated through grace.

THE CHARACTER OF JOSEPH.

I asked my wife what she thought about why God chose Joseph: “God knew his character” was the reply. This started a chain of thoughts linking firstly with ‘Forty Days of Purpose” by Rick Warren. He believed that God chose our parents because He wanted part of the DNA of both of them and no matter what their life, God had intended to create us as individual, unique person. The human genome inherited from each parent is made up of over 3 billion DNA base pairs.

God had been grooming the man to be Jesus step father since humans began.

Psalm 139 is exciting because it brings us the wonderful understanding that God knows us intimately from before our conception.

 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.

You know my sitting down and my rising up:

You understand my thoughts afar off,

You comprehend my path and my lying down,

You are acquainted with all my ways.

V15. My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret …

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed,

And in Your book they were all written,

The days fashioned for me when there were none of them.

And for me the most critical words of all in verses 23 and 24:

 Search me, O God, and know my heart;

 Try me, and know y anxieties; see if there be any wicked way in me,

And lead me in the way everlasting.

**Neither Joseph or Mary** were without sin – Mary described God as her saviour Luke 1:47. If they were sinless they could have died for our sins themselves.

Matt 1:18 betrothed to Mary – before they came together she was found to be pregnant

V19. Joseph her betrothed husband, a just man – did not want to make a public example of her – she would be stoned to death. He wanted to put her away secretly.

 *A just man – caring – protective.*

Matthew 1:18-23 “While he thought on these things an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying: Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bring forth a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. This was spoken by the Lord through a prophet - “behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, they shall call His name Immanuel – God with us.” Isaiah 7:14.

V24. Joseph took Mary as his wife. This would involve some shame for him in that people would think that they had, had a sexual relationship before marriage – even though betrothed was as strong as marriage, but was a ‘wait’ period of time – and usually organised by the parents – maybe when they were children ????

Matthew Chapter 2:13 an angel – dream – “get up, take the young child and his mother, flee to Egypt, stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him.” Joseph got straight up – did not wait till day light – took Jesus and Mary by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod.

How did they live in Egypt – the gold, frankincense and murre - gifts provided by God in advance from the wise men who travelled to see Jesus.

V19. After Herods death, an angel – in a dream – told to take the young child and his mother, and return to the land of Israel – SO - he did no holding onto a good life in Egypt but followed Gods instructions. There was still danger from Herods son – the new ruler – God warned him in a dream and they travelled to Galilee and dwelt in a city called Nazareth.

*The thing that I see in all this* is Joseph knowing GOD, his upbringing and life had not just been in the church but it was personal – real to him – he knew what was from God – he knew in all his being that it was God speaking to him through the angel – and he obeyed instantly – did not ponder and seek outward confirmation from circumstance or other people. Maybe we do not have angel experiences but we have the Presence of God in us – the gift that Jesus said he would ask the Father to send – and He did – and we have, we do have, the Comforter, Guide, Presence of God in us and the Spirit will guide and strengthen us. Read our Lords last conversation with his followers before the crucifixion. John cht 14-17.

*For me – I can not be like that for my mind is tricky, the heart is deceitful – who can know it (Jeremiah 17:9,10) – what I want can get in – yet, yet, yet there is a knowing that I feel that is sure and brings no confusion – not in dreams but in a something inside all of me – a peace, a trembling that I know is God Presence.*

Luke 2:1-7. Joseph was obedient to both the religious and to the legal authorities – “A decree went out that all men were to return to their family area and register. Joseph obeyed even though Mary was in the last weeks of pregnancy. The law only require the man to go – Mary could have stayed behind and been spared a most difficult journey. Given the circumstances of being pregnant before marriage – maybe there was feeling against them in the village and Joseph did not want to leave her? Anyway it was Gods design for the Lord to be born in Bethlehem.

God had organised an animal shed for His Son to be born in – about the lowest place possible – not in a castle or posh hotel but an unhygienic place of cattle droppings and germs. I can see Joseph cleaning it out – shovelling the muck out and carting water to wash it out – clean straw for a bed for Mary – cleaning the manger and preparing for the baby.

Who delivered the baby Jesus? Who cut the umbilical cord? Was it Joseph!

Joseph follow the religious laws and they took Jesus to the temple to perform the religious requirements – they were required to offer a gift/ a sacrifice at the temple and offered what they could afford – the offering for the poorest of people.

The last mention of Joseph is when Jesus reached the age of manhood – 12 years of age. Again Joseph is following the requirements of the religious laws when they took him to the temple. Jesus was no longer required to travel with the women and children but was independent. Joseph and Mary thought that he was with the group travelling together and when the could not find him the travelled back to Jerusalem and spent days searching for him. If we have lost a child we know the gut filling tension of searching. Remember that the secular rulers had tried to kill him as a baby. They found him at the temple and he said –“did you not know that I would be in my Fathers house?” (Luke 4:22)

Jesus went back with them and was in submission to his parents (Luke 2:51) – worked in the family carpentry business until he was 30 years old.

Joseph must have died during this period as we hear no more of him – the computer tells me that he life expectancy of a Jewish male at that time was 30-35 year of age.

Joseph – a man God had planned and birthed through all his ancestors – a man to raise and be an example for the growing boy Jesus.

We may not have been like Joseph in raising our children – yet this Jesus, the man, the son of God, the body God had prepared for Him - to enter this world and live our life – to “take our sins into / **no** to become sin for each of us and bring us into being the righteousness of God in Him” . (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Coming to Jesus bringing our lives to Him, walking in the Spirit, we can be the men and women that God intended/ selected our DNA - for us to be His unique quirky child.

 Let us live in this love and creation!