

Thought for Advent – 2:-

The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent in the Book of Common Prayer is important teaching for us as Christian believers.

“Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.”

If this is so then ALL Scripture should be read and studied by us as followers of the Lord Jesus. Which leads to a question - Why bother to read and study the first 17 verses of the Gospel of Matthew? At this time of year it would seem to be far more appropriate to begin with the birth of Jesus Christ in verse 18!

In the present world situation it is as well to remember that our Lord Jesus Christ was born a Jew! All his disciples were Jewish and the teaching and ethos of the early Church was based on the Old Testament scriptures! As we continue to look at the names and title of our Lord Jesus Christ we see that they are based on the Old Testament scriptures.

Read Matthew chapter 1, verses 1 – 25:-

Verse 1:-

is an important statement. It gives the reason why these verses are included. They are to show that Jesus Christ was the rightful heir to the throne of David. The name ‘**Jesus**’ is the historical name (see verses 21 – 25 below) and ‘**Christ**’, the equivalent of the Hebrew ‘**Messiah**’ is the title of his office – see Matthew chapter 16, verse 16 and Acts chapter 2 verse 36.

For the details on members of the genealogy see our Bible Studies from January 2023 on-line at :-

<https://www.ctrch.org.uk/genealogy/genealogy.html>

Verse 21:-

*“you shall call his name **Jesus**, for he will save his people from their sins”*. The name “Jesus” is a form of the Old Testament name Joshua; given in Deuteronomy chapter 32, verse 44 as “Hoshea” meaning ‘salvation’. Moses added the divine name calling him ‘Jehoshea’ meaning ‘**the Lord saves**’.

The child to be born of Mary was to save his people from their sins.

Verse 23:-

“His name shall be called Immanuel (which means God with us).” Matthew takes the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah chapter 7, verse 14 and applies it to the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. The child to be born was to be God incarnate! **“God with us”**.

Exactly what we are told in the familiar reading in John chapter 1, verses 1 and 14.

The opening chapter of Matthew’s Gospel is important for the background information it gives about the Lord Jesus Christ and his Names and Title.

*On Jordan’s bank, the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within;
Prepare we in our hearts a home
Where such a mighty Guest may come.*

Charles Coffin 1736 translated by John Chandler 1837