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December 2002

## JOSEPH – AND MARY

This is my Christmas present to you.

Matthew gives these facts in the lineage. Joseph should have been the King of Israel. If the Roman armies had all gone home, then Joseph would have been King. Joseph's son would be the next in line. It was very important who he married. At that time, the marriage ceremony included the adoption of any children the bride already had. When Joseph realized Mary was going to have a child, he was really troubled. He knew the child was not his. He knew if he married Mary, then that child (where ever he came from?) would be the heir to the throne. If Israel could throw off the Romans, then he would be King. His parents were concerned. You remember the story. The dream gave Joseph peace. After the baby was born, then Joseph married Mary.

The adoption took place. Jesus was truly in line to be the true King of Israel !

I see it like this. Joseph's mother came home in the late afternoon. She started preparations for supper, and said, "I saw Anne (the mother of Mary) in the market today. She said Mary is pregnant." Joseph, and Jacob (Joseph's father) said "Huh, that can't be !!!!!!!!!!" Mother said, "Well, Anne ought to know." Both Jacob, and Joseph, stood up so quick, they knocked their chairs over backward. Jacob said "That can't be. She's a good girl." Joseph said "I never touched her." Every body was yelling. They finally settled down. Saying, "We've always kept the law. She will have to be stoned." With that, they all went to bed. And nobody slept. In the morning Joseph said, "I can't do it. We will just forget about the marriage. But we don't have to kill her. I will take a trip, and be gone a few months. When I return, it will be passed over. People will find something else to talk about." Instead, Mary took a trip. She went to see Elizabeth.

Luke gives these facts. Zachariah was the High Priest. He was in the Holy of Holies, performing the duties of "the Day of Atonement." The congregation waiting outside wondered what happened to him, because it took him so long. They thought he might have died in there. If he had been doing the regular weekly things, there wouldn't have been a crowd waiting for him to return. The angel came and talked to him. He didn't believe the angel, so the angel made him so he couldn't speak. Zechariah's wife was Elizabeth.

Then John was born. The heir to the line of the High Priest. After the untimely death of John, who was next in line to be the High Priest ? John didn't have any siblings. Of course ! His cousin, Jesus ! Through the line of Mary, Jesus was truly in line to be the High Priest of Israel !

Jesus said, "Is it easier for me to say, be healed? Or to say, be forgiven?" Matt 9:5, Mark 2:9, Luke 5:23. This is an example of both the King, and the Priest. The King, and the High Priest came together in one man. Jesus.

The shepherds were told they would know the babe because He would be wrapped in swaddling cloths. Luke 2:7,12 That is the fabric that they used to wrap mummies, dead bodies !! Not tiny babies !! Long strips of cheap cotton. Clean, not used, but still, a sign of death. How very, very strange. !! That would certainly be unusual. Not many new mothers would accept that. When the shepherds got there, they knew this was the right baby because there were the swaddling cloths.

Then the three kings. We don't really know there were three men. We assume that, because there were three gifts. Gold, for the king. Frankincense, for the priest. Incense was used every week in the Holy Place. And also once a year in the Holy of Holies by the High Priest. Those men knew already that He would be the High Priest. Myrrh, for His death. Myrrh is used in embalming a dead person.

Jesus knew who He was. All good Jewish boys went to the temple when they were twelve years old. Then they returned home and were apprenticed to their father to learn their father's trade. So did Jesus. He went to the temple, and stayed talking to the rabbis. When Mary went looking for Him, and found Him there, she said, "Why have you done this?" He answered, "You know, I must be about my father's business." Luke 2:49 Never the less, He went with Mary and was apprenticed to Joseph the carpenter.

We have to know that Joseph was a good carpenter. To assume that Joseph was poor, is an insult to that great man. The scripture said Jesus became poor. 2 Corinthians 8:9 So He wasn't poor as a child. The family wasn't poor. This was the family of the Kings. Joseph had enough money to travel to Egypt. Travel has always been expensive. Furthermore, Mary's uncle was Joseph of Arimathea, the rich man who gave the tomb for Jesus. Mark 15:43-46

Zechariah became too old to minister as the High Priest. And John was still too young. (John was born to old parents). In that period, the priesthood was weak. Pilate appointed Caiaphas to be the High Priest. (From the Jewish Encyclopedia). Caiaphas was son-in-law to Annas, a very rich man. You know politics. Pilate got some form of a payback.

John turned thirty, and was old enough to be priest. He was not able to take his place as High Priest, because Caiaphas was too politically entrenched. So John went around baptizing people in the hope of correcting the corruption that had developed. He told Herod he was living with the wrong woman. That put John in prison. But Herod remembered the previous Herod that had killed all the little boy babies. This Herod was afraid to kill John till he found a woman he could blame it on. Salome's mother wanted John's head? Grody to the max! I would have asked for a villa on the Mediterranean. Some one put her up to that. Maybe Caiaphas.

When Jesus was tried before Herod, that wimp said "You're not from my county." He thought that relieved him of responsibility.

Caiaphas knew who Jesus was. He knew Jesus was supposed to be King. He knew Jesus was supposed to be High Priest also. When Jesus came up for trial, with

Caiaphas to try him, Caiaphas said "If this man continues, we will loose our position."  
John 11:48

Then again, when Pilate put the sign on the cross that said "King of the Jews"  
Caiaphas said, "Make it say that He said, He was King of the Jews." And Pilate said "I  
have written it." John 19:19. Pilate knew who He was. Apparently, Joseph kept a low  
profile. But Jesus did not. He made waves. Either He healed on the Sabbath, or said  
they had made His father's house a den of thieves. Jesus became a threat to those  
bought priests and governors.

Melchisedec was the first one, I think, who was both: a king and priest: King of Salem,  
and a Priest of El Elyon. Jesus was born to be a king, and born to be a Priest of Aaron's  
order, then became a Priest after the order of Melchisedec. That was a Priest, and a  
King. Jesus was born a King, and a High Priest of Yahweh. And also became a Priest  
of Melchisedec. That is three offices. Spirit, soul, and body.

Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, was "of the Daughters of Aaron." Luke 1:5. The daughters of  
Aaron are first known in Num. 18. There they have been given the duty of caring for the  
Holy of Holies. Forever ! They also got the best pieces of meat from the sacrifices.  
That was 3000 years before Elizabeth, in Luke. So that must have been a kind of order of  
women priests.

Elizabeth, (Greek/English) has the same name as Elishabah, (Hebrew) the wife of Aaron.  
Elishabah was born to the tribe of Judah. Her father, Abinadab, was the leader of the tribe of  
Judah. Her brother, Nahshon, was the next leader of the tribe of Judah. One of her sons, Salmon,  
became the following leader of the tribe of Judah. Ruth 4:20 This was when the children of  
Israel had just come out of Egypt. Before there were any kings. Kings were going to come from  
Judah, but Elishabah married Aaron, who was to become the High Priest from the tribe of Levi.  
So here is another example of a princess, and a priestess in one person. Born a princess, became  
a priestess. It appears that we are born to the line of kings, and also born to become the  
priesthood.

Betty

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If you don't have a computer, you'd better find one you can use to look at what has  
been done.

Questions or comments should be addressed to

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