



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series  
Supports Session 4: Sought  
Sermon Title: "The Baby Came with Instructions"  
Passage: Matthew 1:21

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### Connection to Matthew 2:1-12

God provides salvation to everyone who seeks Him. They will be saved when they believe in Jesus.

### Introduction/Opening

If you're a parent, did you feel inadequate when you held your first baby in your arms? Did you wish that an instruction manual had accompanied the birth of your baby?

Matthew invites us to look upon the centerpiece of salvation. We don't have to look for long before we see a baby born in Bethlehem. Angels have announced His arrival, and it's been confirmed with a genealogy that proves His bloodline.

Moreover, His birth has been accompanied by instructions from an angel, who intended for Joseph to follow them without fail. The reason for the precise instructions becomes clear when we examine the angel's instructions.

### Outline

#### 1. The Person (v. 1a)

##### a. Jesus: a common name

The name "Jesus" certainly didn't set the baby apart. They say that "Jesus" happened to be a common name back then. The common name suggested that God's Son would deal with the same joys and sorrows that we face. Because He has life in common with us, He can identify with us.

##### b. Jesus: a significant name

At the same time, the name "Jesus" underscores something significant about the baby born in Bethlehem. In the Greek language, "Jesus" means "He saves." The name "Joshua" from the Old Testament carries the same meaning in the Hebrew language. As Matthew shows us, Jesus lives up to His simple but elegant name.

## 2. The Purpose (v. 1b)

### a. What does “save” mean?

The angel underscored the value of Jesus’ name by helping Joseph to grasp the depth of its meaning. Jesus wouldn’t arrive on the scene with a plan to rehabilitate the world. Neither would He devote Himself to some vague form of religious conformity. He’s not devoted to helping people just so they can help themselves. He came to rescue us, to deliver us, to find us, to save us.

### b. Who are “His people”?

Jesus gave the people of Israel the first opportunity to affirm Him as God’s Messiah. They had been anticipating His arrival for centuries. Their anticipation had reached a peak when He came into the world by way of Bethlehem. In due time, however, Jesus would show that His people includes everyone who receives His gift of salvation by faith in Him.

## 3. The Problem (v. 1c)

### a. The problem with our sins

Our sins serve as the bricks that have built the big, thick wall that separates us from God. We can’t tear it down with religious rituals, improved behavior, or benevolent endeavors. Convincing ourselves that the wall doesn’t exist won’t make it go away either. Until the wall comes down, we constantly live with the awareness that something’s not right.

### b. Jesus’ response to our sins

Because God loved us, He sent Jesus to tear down the wall so a relationship with Him can begin—the kind of relationship that will last for eternity. Tearing down the wall means sending our sins away, giving us new life, enjoying the blessings that come with being His children, and devoting ourselves to serving Him with fulfilling joy. Christ alone can forgive our sins and make us right with the Father.

## Conclusion

The angel’s instruction to Joseph about Jesus points to the gift of salvation that only He can provide. Have you trusted Christ to forgive your sins and to give you new life in Him? Have you shared the good news of Christ with others so they can receive the greatest gift that could ever be offered to them?

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*Argile Smith serves as the pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Biloxi, MS. He graduated from William Carey College (BA) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, PhD).*

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