

What Are You Waiting For?  
Matthew 1:18-25

## WE ACTIVELY AWAIT RE-CREATION

Matthew 1:18

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about...

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

As we celebrate the holidays, let's remember that this is one of those savage epochs when some families must choose between their faith and their lives...Middle Eastern Christians, along with Yazidis, and others, are facing an ethnic cleansing. Confronting this should be a global human rights priority. As we celebrate the holidays, let's speak up for those for whom faith is a matter not of casual worship but of fear, rape and murder.

-Nicholas Kristoff, NY Times

"strange melancholy that haunts the inhabitants...in the midst of abundance."

-Alexis de Tocqueville

WE ACTIVELY AWAIT RESCUE

(v.21) She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus..

Jesus=YHWH SAVES

After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 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. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

[Joy of Secularism editor] Levine explains that the book's aim is to "explore the idea that secularism is a positive, not a negative, condition, not a denial of the world of spirit and of religion, but an affirmation of the world we're living in now; that building our world on a foundation of the secular is essential to our contemporary well-being; and that such a world is capable of bringing us to the condition of 'fullness' that religion has always promised."

Using secularism to fill the enchantment void runs the risk of making it at best religiose and at worst merely upbeat and vacuously "positive." —James Wood, *The New Yorker* (Reviewing the Joy of Secularism).

There are three tenses to salvation (past, present, and future)



## WE ACTIVELY AWAIT TRUE LOVE

(v.22-23) All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

## Matthew 28

When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.  
18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

(v.24-25) When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.  
25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus

The name of Yahweh is a strong tower; the righteous run to it  
and are safe

—Proverbs 18:10

ACTIVE WAITING MEANS YOU KEEP RUNNING TO THE  
NAME OF THE LORD