Devotion for Dec. 13, 2017 – Ruth Maughan

Matthew 1:18-21

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was betrothed to Joseph. Betrothal was a permanent relationship that could be broken only by legal process. Therefore, Mary was considered Joseph's wife and he her husband before their marriage had been consummated. Mary's status as a virgin at the time of Jesus' conception through the power of Holy Spirit helps authenticate Jesus' divinity.

Joseph was a righteous man, a devout observer of Mosaic law. He wished to break his union with someone whom he suspected of gross violation of the law. He did not wish to disgrace her publicly so he decided to break the engagement quietly.

As he considered what to honorably do about his situation, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel told him not to be afraid to take Mary into his home. The child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Her child was a son. Joseph was to name Him Jesus. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Yeshua, which means "The Lord saves." The angel states that Jesus (Yeshua) will save his people from their sins.

His people……………Israel as a nation, the church, Jews, Gentiles, all humanity, you, me. His people. He will save His people from their sins.

 God keeps covenant. God had providentially guided the course of history to its climax in Jesus Christ. He is the pivot on which time spins. He fulfills all the promises of God to the Old Testament prophets. He is the gift of salvation to all who will believe. He is the Son of God. Only HE can save the people (us) from their (our) sins.

God keeps covenant with us. All generations of people of all time until the end of time. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever (that's me – that's you) believes in Him shall not perish, but shall have eternal life."

I joyfully worship Him Who came from God and gave His life so that I might live forever with Him. YES.