



# **Naming the King**

**Matthew 1:17-21**

**Kasey rested her chin in her hands and stared again at the blueprints of the city wall spread over her desk. She had been working hard all week to track down clues about Uncle Phil's strange disappearance. She found the blueprints when she searched his hideout, but they didn't seem to be leading her to an answer.**

**"I just wish I could find a solid clue," she thought. Moments later, her thoughts were interrupted by tapping on the window next to her desk. She looked up to see a carrier pigeon standing on the windowsill with a package in its beak. Startled, she opened the window and took the package. Quickly, she ripped open the paper.**

**"It's another figurine from the nativity scene. I recognize this, it's Joseph! God was the father of Jesus, but Joseph was his earthly father. He was married to Mary and helped raise baby Jesus. This must be a clue telling me to read about Joseph. I'll get the Bible out right now!" She opened her desk drawer to retrieve her Bible. She found the story of Joseph in the book of Matthew, chapter 1.**

**"Wow, this chapter teaches us how Joseph could trace his family all the way back to Abraham and Isaac through King David and King Solomon. Joseph came from a long family of kings and godly men and women. Family is very important." Kasey leaned back in her chair and stared out the window. "Reading that makes me miss Uncle Phil even more. I miss him so much, sometimes it's almost like I can hear his beautiful voice."**

**"Alms, alms for the poor," a familiar voice from the street below drifted into the open window. Kasey thought she was just wishing too hard until she heard the voice again. "Can you spare some change for a poor man?" the voice said.**

**Kasey leaned so far out the second story window that she almost fell. "Uncle Phil? Uncle Phil! Is it you? Is it really you?" she called out to the shadowy figure in a ragged overcoat.**

**The Philistine looked up. "Well it ain't your aunt Tillie!"**

**"You're alive! I knew you were alive!" Kasey cheered. "Wait right there!" She ran out of the newsroom, down the stairs and out the door to meet her uncle.**

**"Well, I sent you enough clues to figure it out—I'm alive," her uncle greeted her on the street.**

**"What happened to you?" Kasey led him to sit with her on a bench as he began to explain.**

**"When we were knocked off the wall I hit my head and when I woke up I wandered around for weeks. I couldn't remember much at first, except the fact that I had an important message to tell someone. Little by little I found my way home." He shook his head as he remembered the past few weeks.**

**Kasey couldn't hold back any longer. She threw her arms around her uncle in a big bear hug. "Oh, Uncle Phil, you sacrificed yourself to defeat the Obliterator!"**

**The Philistine, shrugged, a little embarrassed. But his face brightened as he realized what Kasey had just said. "I know! I finally remembered. Is he gone for good?"**

**Kasey nodded happily. "They locked him and all of his evil henchmen in a maximum security prison. We won't be seeing him again for a long time!" She turned to look at her uncle. "But, what was your message? Was it about Joseph and how Jesus came from a family of kings?"**

**"Well, that's part of it, but you missed the rest of the story!" The Philistine explained. "An angel appeared to Joseph and told him all about Mary's baby. A real live angel! Read what the angel said!"**

**He handed the open Bible to her, which he had been carrying around since he was knocked off the wall. Kasey found the spot and read in Matthew 1:21, "She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."**

**"That's the message!" the Philistine exclaimed. "Jesus came from kings but He is the King of kings and He was born to save us from our sins! The name Jesus comes from the name Joshua which means the Lord saves and that's the message of Christmas."**

**"That's a truth that no one can argue with!" Kasey agreed.**

**"Oh Kasey," the Philistine said sadly. "I got so far away from the truth that I forgot the most important message in the world: Jesus came to save us so we could be part of God's family. I want the whole world to hear that message. I want to tell everyone that they can become a part of God's forever family, too!"**

**"We could run a big ad in the King City Herald!" Kasey suggested with an excited grin.**

**"Excellent idea!" The Philistine stood up, "Let's go do it! I want the whole world to know that..."**

**"We give everything to honor our King!" they said together. Then, thrilled to see her uncle wanting to honor King Jesus, she led him to the advertising desk on the third floor of the King City Herald office to place the ad.**