

Luke 1:34-2:7, "Christmas Weirdness"

1. **Weird pregnancies.**

- ✓ Starting with Elizabeth and Zachariah finding out they were having a child when they were in their 60's or 70's. Then there was: "Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." Luke 1:34. So, Jesus is recognized as the Messiah in utero and John is the one who recognizes Him and himself is in utero, Luke 1:39-41.

2. **Weird Baby**

- ✓ He's virgin born; He's conceived by the Holy Spirit; He is God, not just a representative of God; this is no regular baby!, Luke 2:7.

3. **Weird location**

- ✓ Bethlehem, among the smallest communities in all of Israel. When you are God and your options are anywhere on the planet or in the universe, I think we'd have to say that to choose Bethlehem was pretty weird.

4. **Weird Spot for labor and a delivery.**

- ✓ There was quite likely nothing that we would refer to as an actual commercial "Inn" in that little town. What we probably would see at such, and occasion was everybody with and extra room or a courtyard renting them out for a price. When Mary and Joseph arrive from 90 miles away, there is nothing left but a stable. To say "stable" is an embellishment of the text, it doesn't say stable! Bethlehem was a tent city with many visitors and Mary and Joseph found a spot with some hay and whatever shelter they had or had brought. God could have orchestrated it any way imaginable, but He orchestrated it exactly as it reads, that is so weird! Given what Mary and Joseph had available, a manger wasn't so weird, but to anyone else, like the shepherds, a manger was a weird place to find a newborn.

5. **Adding to the tremendous weirdness: who is told about the birth?.**

- ✓ Shepherds have been romanticized by all our Christmas stories, but the fact is that they were a very unlikely group. Shepherds weren't bad people at all, they were just very unlikely, you shepherded when you could do nothing else. They were not even allowed to testify in court in that society because they were considered to be too dim-witted to be reliable. Born in obscurity, in a tiny little town, in some shelter near a manger, to two poverty stricken people, attended by the least of that society. That is how and where the God of the Universe arrived on earth.

6. **Weirdest of all, He came to save us.**

- ✓ It shouldn't have been that way, it should have been "judge us", "condemn us" or "Kill us", but the fact that He came to save us is super weird!!
