

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCE, EXTRAORDINARY OUTCOME

As people, we are drawn to unusual situations. When things don't happen the normal way, it causes us to pause and think. As we consider the extraordinary events surrounding the birth of Jesus, let us think: *why would God go through such measures?*

Luke 1:26-38

- Extraordinary Circumstance (EC): a virgin having a child.
- EC: Elizabeth, old and barren, is sixth months pregnant.

Matthew 1:18-24

- EC: Joseph decides to put Mary away quietly and not publicly shame her that she be stoned.
- EC: Joseph is spoken to in a dream by an angel, and he believes the dream. He walks out what was in the dream.

Luke 2:1-21

- EC: the baby was born in an uncommon way—in a dirty manger.
- EC: the shepherds were given instructions by angels to find this child, not in a comfortable room, but in a manger.
- EC: The star was so clear that the shepherds were able to follow it to find Jesus. When they heard, they obeyed.

Matthew 2:1-15

- EC: The star leads the wisemen and stops over the place where Jesus was.
- EC: The wisemen had a dream telling them not to go back to Herod.
- EC: An angel of the Lord appears in another dream telling Joseph to flee with the child and his mother to Egypt.

God makes extraordinary circumstances so he can make extraordinary outcomes. By making it seem impossible, by making it defy human logic, it shows how extraordinary our God is. It causes us to gravitate toward Him, so that we would believe.

Sometimes God puts us through extraordinary circumstances to set us up for an extraordinary outcome. We have to say, "okay Lord" and obey, even if we can't see the other side of the situation.

We get caught up in the circumstance, but there is an extraordinary outcome on the other side!