

# God's Extraordinary Redemption

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December 15, 2024 ▪ Brad Manley

**The birth of Christ is God's extraordinary intervention into the \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The birth of Christ is extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The birth of Christ is cause for extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_.**

**The birth of Christ has extraordinary \_\_\_\_\_.**

## ***Luke 2:8-20***

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<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** Can you recall a time when you received unexpected good news? How did it impact you?

**Read & Discuss:** Luke 2:8-20

1. God's work as recorded in this passage is filled with elements of both the ordinary and the extraordinary. List as many of each as you can. What does this tell you about God, and which ones stand out the most to you?
2. In the world of the first century, shepherds were not a well-respected group. What do you think they might have felt as the angel appeared to them? Why do you think God might have chosen to announce the birth of Christ to these shepherds in the field rather than in the temple? What does this tell us about God's priorities, and what does this mean for us?
3. The message of the angel is described in three ways: It is good news, it brings great joy, and it is for all the people (v. 10). In what way are each of these important aspects of Jesus' coming, and how does each apply to you?
4. The angel refers to Jesus as "Christ the Lord" (v. 11). Why is it significant Jesus is given this title? What difference would it have made if the angel had referred to Jesus as "Christ of the Lord"? How is the title "Christ the Lord" important for our understanding of Jesus' teachings and ultimately His death?
5. After the angel's announcement, the host of heaven break forth in praise to God (v. 14). What impact might this have had on the shepherds? What do verses 15, 16 and 20 tell us about the spiritual character and knowledge of the shepherds?
6. In verses 18-20, what are the different responses you see to the arrival of Christ the Lord? How is each of these an appropriate response for us today?

**Apply:** How can we ensure that the message of Jesus' birth is not just a story we hear once a year, but a foundational truth in our understanding of God and the Gospel? What will you do this Christmas season to respond to the birth of Christ in a manner similar to a response you see in this passage?

**Pray:** Ask God to help us better ponder, treasure, and proclaim the news of Jesus' birth this Christmas.