

Message: No. 1  
Series: This Is Christmas  
Passage: Luke 2:1-20  
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## CHRISTMAS SURPRISES

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### Luke 2:1-20

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. <sup>4</sup>And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. <sup>5</sup>He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. <sup>7</sup>She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

<sup>8</sup>That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, <sup>10</sup>but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. <sup>11</sup>The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! <sup>12</sup>And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup>They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. <sup>18</sup>All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, <sup>19</sup>but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds went back to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

- ♦ **The Pregnancy Surprise**  
*"God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, to a virgin..."*
- ♦ **The Travel Surprise**  
*"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree...so Joseph went to Bethlehem."*
- ♦ **The No Room in Bethlehem Surprise**  
*"There was no room for them in the inn."*
- ♦ **The No Crib Surprise**  
*"She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger..."*
- ♦ **The Prairie Surprise**  
*"Shepherds living out in the fields...an angel of the Lord appeared..."*
- ♦ **The Big Burly Men in the Middle of the Night Surprise**  
*"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby..."*
- ♦ **The Happy Christmas Surprise**  
*"...the baby who was lying in the manger...Mary treasured up all these things in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen..."*

IN ALL OF THE SURPRISES IN LIFE GOD STILL WORKS FOR GOOD FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM WHO ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29:11-13

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Matthew 11:28-30