

**QUESTIONING CHRISTMAS: WHAT'S TRULY STRANGE IN THE  
CHRISTMAS STORY**  
LUKE 2:1-20 (ESV)

I. The strange elements of Luke's birth narrative are...

- A. That Jesus was born in \_\_\_\_\_,
- B. That the newborn Jesus was laid in a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and
- C. That the key witnesses to His birth were \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

II. These oddities in Luke's Christmas story serve a purpose in the narrative.

- A. Throughout the Bible, divine \_\_\_\_\_ are confirmed by strange, but meaningful \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The strange things in this story confirmed promises that folks might have reasons to doubt:

Promise #1: Micah, the 8th-century BC Jewish prophet, foretold that a Jewish king would \_\_\_\_\_ over the whole world (Micah 5:1-4).

Sign confirming Promise #1: This king will be born in \_\_\_\_\_.

Promise #2: Not only has the long-awaited Messiah of Israel been born, but He is also bring \_\_\_\_\_ to the earth.

Sign confirming Promise #2: the \_\_\_\_\_ cradle

Promise #3: This king is going to be \_\_\_\_\_ than all the others.

Sign confirming Promise #3: The eyewitnesses to His birth are from the \_\_\_\_\_ social status.

C. All these strange signs were given to help people \_\_\_\_\_ promises that seemed \_\_\_\_\_.

III. Rather than waiting for extraordinary signs to convince us of God's promises, we find confirmation by...

A. Giving biblical \_\_\_\_\_ benefit of the doubt, even if that means suspending \_\_\_\_\_.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God to show you whether it's true or not.

C. Seriously \_\_\_\_\_ on the promises claimed by the biblical prophets.

D. Recognizing that the Bible's criticisms of humanity apply not only to today's \_\_\_\_\_, but also to \_\_\_\_\_.

E. \_\_\_\_\_ the viability of the \_\_\_\_\_ solution to these problems against other solutions.

F. If you take these things seriously, God will use your \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to confirm that Jesus' solution to these problems is not only true, but good.