



# Outlaw In a Manger

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## Luke 1:30-35

*But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. [31] You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. [32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*

*[34] "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"*

*[35] The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."*

## Jesus' Un-natural Birth:

From the very beginning of Jesus' earthly life, He broke the rules. All other children ever born were the result of a man and woman coming together and the woman becoming pregnant, but not Jesus. Even his conception shattered the norm. Jesus was the only child ever born of a virgin. Even though all children are a miracle of God, Jesus Christ was the only Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit of God Himself. He broke the rules of nature.

## Luke 2:8-14

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [9] An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. [11] Today in the town of David a Savior has*

*been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. [12] This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*[13] Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*[14] "Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

### **Not a Big Shot:**

What's this??? Here the King of Creation is born in human flesh and His angelic messenger comes to announce it to... shepherds. Why shepherds? They weren't highly educated, they weren't famous, they weren't rich, they weren't well dressed; in fact they even smelled like SHEEP!!! Yet Jesus, the King of Glory, sent His angel to announce to them (vs. 11) "a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the LORD." You see Jesus is not an average everyday King (or president)... no in fact He is quite different from anyone else to ever be born. He came to be the Savior of the World. The Hero to every one of us, but yet when He came, He came humbly, the opposite of the rulers of this earth. You could say He was born under cover... (vs. 12) "a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." He, the very same King that created the earth now chose to make His entrance into human form in a barn (or stable). Other Kings were born in King's palaces, and in Pharaoh's courts, but not this King, He was born and laid into a manger. Jesus is a different kind of King. He broke the rules of "big-shot leadership."

### **Freaking Out a King:**

**Matthew 2:13-20**

*When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."*

*[14] So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, [15] where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."*

*[16] When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had*

*learned from the Magi. [17] Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:*

*[18] "A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."*

*[19] After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt [20] and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."*

Jesus had to flee Israel with His family as a toddler, because King Herod wanted to kill Him. Why did King Herod want to kill Jesus??? King Herod saw Christ as a threat to his throne. Herod knew that a Messiah was to come, and that He would rule as a King, and Herod was afraid for his own position. Herod thought he would lose his control to Christ, so he hunted His life. Again we see that Christ, the Refugee, was no ordinary child. Kings do not fear ordinary children. Kings fear revolutionaries. Kings fear great warriors. Kings fear other kings, but kings do not fear children... at least not ordinary children. Jesus was extraordinary!!!

### **Driving People Crazy Today:**

Normal people are forgotten just a hundred years or so after they die. Only those that leave a mark are remembered. Even out of those that are remembered, very few still affect people powerfully even after they are gone. We know that Christ isn't dead... He rose again and is at the right hand of God, but He's not here in bodily form on earth. Agreed?? Yet even though Jesus isn't here on earth in the flesh He still scares people today. Jesus freaks people out today, just like He freaked out Herod 2000 years ago.

[http://www.inplainsite.org/html/banning\\_of\\_christianity.html](http://www.inplainsite.org/html/banning_of_christianity.html)

By Jon Christian Ryter (December 2003) The Banning of Christianity

A week ago a Nativity scene was removed from a showcase at the Simmons Elementary School in Horsham, Pennsylvania. What makes this newsworthy (since Nativity scenes have been outlawed in many of America's communities because, according to those community leaders, such displays are theologically-biased against

those who do not believe in Jesus), is that the ACLU did not demand that the Nativity scene at the Hatbro-Horsham School District be removed. District Superintendent William Lessa removed it because it was too overtly religious. Of course, Lessa alibied his actions by claiming that the Nativity scene was "...a religious symbol so significant that it was not appropriate in the context of public education." Lessa added that the Nativity scene was not needed since there were plenty of other symbols of Christmas in Simmons Elementary--including Christmas trees, a menorah and a symbol of Kwanzaa. Yup. Everything was there except the REASON for the season.

When other symbols of Christmas were ok for Lessa and his school, the scene of a little baby Jesus in a manger wasn't ok. Why? Because Lessa was scared by the idea of Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, being born of a virgin. There are many other people in our world culture that are freaked out by Jesus, because NO One else has ever done what He's done. NO other King has ever been born, not of human origin, but of God Himself. No wonder Jesus weirds people out... He didn't do anything the way the world does it. Jesus is an Outcast by the world's standards. He is an Outlaw according to Herod, and Superintendent William Lessa. Who's side are you on????

You could say Jesus was a Rebel with a Cause!!! What cause?? He came into the earth born of God, lived a perfect life, and then gave His life on a cross for the sin of the world. That's an awesome cause, one worth dieing for. I want to give you a chance right now to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. He paid the price, now you just have to receive Him.

Pray