

*GOD LOVES TO SURPRISE US*



## **SURPRISE**

- to cause to feel amazement or wonder
- to encounter or discover unexpectedly or suddenly
- to capture or assault suddenly and without warning
- to present with something unexpected, such as a gift



Is this your image of the Christmas Story?  
When did you last read it from the Bible?  
Read Matthew Chapter 1 and 2  
and Luke Chapter 1 and 2  
for two different perspectives on the  
Christmas story.



If we reflect on our memories of Christmas's past, the most memorable are not often what we expected BUT what we did NOT expect.

When you reread the story of Christmas you will discover:

- Zechariah and Elizabeth did not expect to have a baby in their old age.
- Mary did not expect to become the mother of the Son of God.
- Joseph did not expect his young bride to become pregnant.
- Herod did not expect to be disturbed by the news of the Messiah.
- The shepherds did not expect to see angels in their field.
- The Maji did not expect to find the Saviour of the world born in a manger in a poor little country village like Bethlehem.

## **GOD SURPRISED EVERYBODY THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS**


The real surprise of Christmas is not just how the Christmas story unfolds but who Jesus is and what he came to do.

Jesus constantly surprised his followers, and he wants to continue to surprise you.

Are you expecting Jesus this Christmas in your home and what are you expecting him to do?

Why not be the surprising servant of a surprising God to your neighbours this year?

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*God Uses  
unlikely people  
in  
unlikely places  
at  
unlikely times  
to do  
extraordinary  
things.*

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## *unlikely times*

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### Galatians 4:4

But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law.

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## *unlikely places*

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### Micah 5:2

But you, Bethlehem, David's country,  
the runt of the litter—  
From you will come the leader  
who will shepherd-rule Israel.  
He'll be no upstart, no pretender.  
His family tree is ancient and distinguished.

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## *unlikely people*

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### Isaiah 7: 14

So, Isaiah told him, "Then listen to this, government of David! It's bad enough that you make people tired with your pious, timid hypocrisies, but now you're making God tired. So, the Master is going to give you a sign anyway. Watch for this: A girl who is presently a virgin will get pregnant. She'll bear a son and name him Immanuel (God-With-Us).