

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of a Sovereign God**  
**Luke 2:1-19**

Often, things happen in our life for which we have no good explanation, \_\_\_\_\_ that God has brought or allowed them. How we respond will determine the outcome and our spiritual development. If we believe in the sovereignty of God, then we need to believe: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. The development of the birth of Christ has no other explanation than the sovereign God was accomplishing his work his way, even though it had its \_\_\_\_\_.

**I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of life Vs 1-5**

**A. Life \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what our circumstances Vs 1a**

1. Caesar Augustus (27 B.C.-A.D. 14)-Ordered the census that involved Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1)
2. Caesar-the surname of Julius, which was adopted by those following him as the \_\_\_\_\_ rulers of the Roman empire
3. Decree-ordinance, a \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Timing for carrying out responsibilities will not always be \_\_\_\_\_ Vs 1b-5**

1. Tax time is never convenient and rarely profitable Vs 1b-3
  - a. This was more than \_\_\_\_\_ taxes
  - b. This was a census that required each \_\_\_\_\_ Jew had to return to his home city to register themselves, their property, and their income.
2. The distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles
3. Mary was "great with child" (KJV)
  - a. Mary was \_\_\_\_\_ pregnant
  - b. Mary was huge and ready to deliver at any time \_\_\_\_\_ they ever began the long journey

**II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of life Vs 6-7**

**A. The long hard journey probably contributed greatly to Mary's delivery in a place other than her home**

1. In a \_\_\_\_\_ city-Bethlehem instead of Nazareth
2. In a strange \_\_\_\_\_-a manger instead of her own home
  - a. Could have been a feeding \_\_\_\_\_ for animals, or
  - b. Could have been a \_\_\_\_\_ for keeping animals
  - c. Many scholars believe the location of Christ's birth was a \_\_\_\_\_ and not a wooden stable as depicted by most Christ's birth scenes

**B. She wrapped her newborn son in swaddling clothes**

1. The swaddling cloth was \_\_\_\_\_ strips of cloth
2. She wrapped Christ in these long strips of cloth in the same way as a mother does a \_\_\_\_\_ today
3. The misfortune of not being equipped at that time for birthing a child, thus she made the \_\_\_\_\_ with what she had

**C. "There was no room in the inn"**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a long journey-the time it took to travel such a long distance
2. The misfortune of \_\_\_\_\_-there was a crowd of people in Bethlehem due to the census

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ visitors Vs 8

A.

1. Shepherds were \_\_\_\_\_ inept due to their line of work
2. Their work kept them ceremonially \_\_\_\_\_ to come to the Temple for worship
3. Their line of work was \_\_\_\_\_ for sacrifice offerings and food, but was not considered an important line of work by most people of that day

B. The shepherds were \_\_\_\_\_ the folks you would want to come to see your newborn son

1. Their \_\_\_\_\_
2. Their \_\_\_\_\_
3. Their lack of \_\_\_\_\_ training

IV. God at work \_\_\_\_\_ the inconveniences and misfortunes of life and the unwanted visitors

A. God's plans for accomplishing His will are to His \_\_\_\_\_ alone

B. We make our plans, but God \_\_\_\_\_ the outcome

1. Joseph and Mary were not planning on this \_\_\_\_\_ pregnancy
2. The timing for a required government census was **terrible** for Mary
3. Both Joseph and Mary \_\_\_\_\_ to the difficulties and allowed God to make something wonderful out of them, as only He can do

C. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are my ways higher than your ways, And my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9