



Random Christmas

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Scripture: Luke 1:1–4, 26–38; Ephesians 1:11

Visual: Open box labeled “Random”; Christmas tree with ornaments labeled with life events

Introduction

1. Humans have an insatiable desire to find meaning and purpose in even the most random events in life.
2. We long for a meta-narrative: a comprehensive explanation of history and experience.
3. It ensures there’s a purpose to everything—that this is a story that’s going somewhere.
4. We say:
 - “Everything happens for a reason.”
 - “I don’t believe in coincidence.”
 - “You just haven’t met the right person yet.”
 - “I guess it wasn’t meant to be.”
5. Christians connect dots and call it a “God thing.”
6. When tragedy strikes, we ask why. We want to find purpose in pain. We want suffering to connect to something purposeful. We naturally assume there is a purpose.
7. The Christmas story is a reminder that the thing in us that wants the dots to connect is not to be ignored. The world isn’t as random as we might think. There really is a story. Life is connected. There’s a **divine story**.
8. From time to time, it’s as if God drops directly into people’s lives in unmistakable ways to give the flywheel a push. To remind. To reorient. To connect dots. To give us our bearings.

These are some of my favorite verses in the NT. If you are skeptical about the Bible, this may be of special interest.

Luke 1:1–4 (TNIV)

¹ Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses** and servants of the word. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the **certainty** of the things you have been taught.

[That’s different than “once upon a time,” isn’t it? So begins the story of Jesus.]