



The Perfect Christmas

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Scripture: Luke 1:1–4; 2:1–2, 10–11

Image: Picture of a manger scene

[A 10-minute video sketch is shown before Andy starts speaking. Jenna is one of the characters.]

Introduction

1. Jenna was right. It is perfect. Maybe too perfect?
2. The Christmas story begins with an announcement to a couple who was too **old** to have children, which was **perfect** because they considered themselves out of favor with God, and Jesus' entire ministry was aimed at correcting erroneous ideas about who was in and out with God.
3. They were going to have a son who would herald the coming of the long-awaited Messiah, which was **perfect** because the Old Testament prophet Malachi said somebody would do that.
4. The story continues with an announcement to a young girl that she was **highly favored**, which was **perfect** because she hadn't done anything to **earn** that distinction—which was the point of Jesus' ministry. God would favor us for reasons that had nothing to do with what we do.
5. Mary gave the **perfect** response: *Whatever you say, I'll go along with it.*
6. The first ones to announce Jesus' birth were shepherds, who were considered **outsiders** unworthy of participating in temple worship. This was **perfect** because Jesus' entire ministry was to those who thought they **didn't measure up**. Shepherds were perfect because Jesus would one day be compared to and **compare himself to sheep**.
7. It was perfect because 1,500 miles away, the most powerful man in the world, Caesar Augustus—who was known as “divine,” the son of a god—would become a footnote in the story of Mary.

As far as stories go—in terms of plots, subplots, and foreshadowing—it's perfect. It's almost too perfect, isn't it?