

The Miracle of the Method

The Miracles of Christmas Series Part 3 of 4

Romans 11:33-36

Anthony Grove Baptist Church

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Romans 11:33–36

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” ³⁵ “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?” ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.-- (NIV)

Isaiah 55:8–9

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.-- (NIV)

Matthew 1:22–23

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”-- (NIV)



The Miracle of the Method



1. God's Miracle Method **Transcends Us.**

Romans 11:33³³ Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!-- (NLT)



A. God's Miracle Plot.

**Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."--
(NIV)**



B. God's Miracle **People** _____.

Matthew 1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.-- (NIV)

C. God's Miracle Place

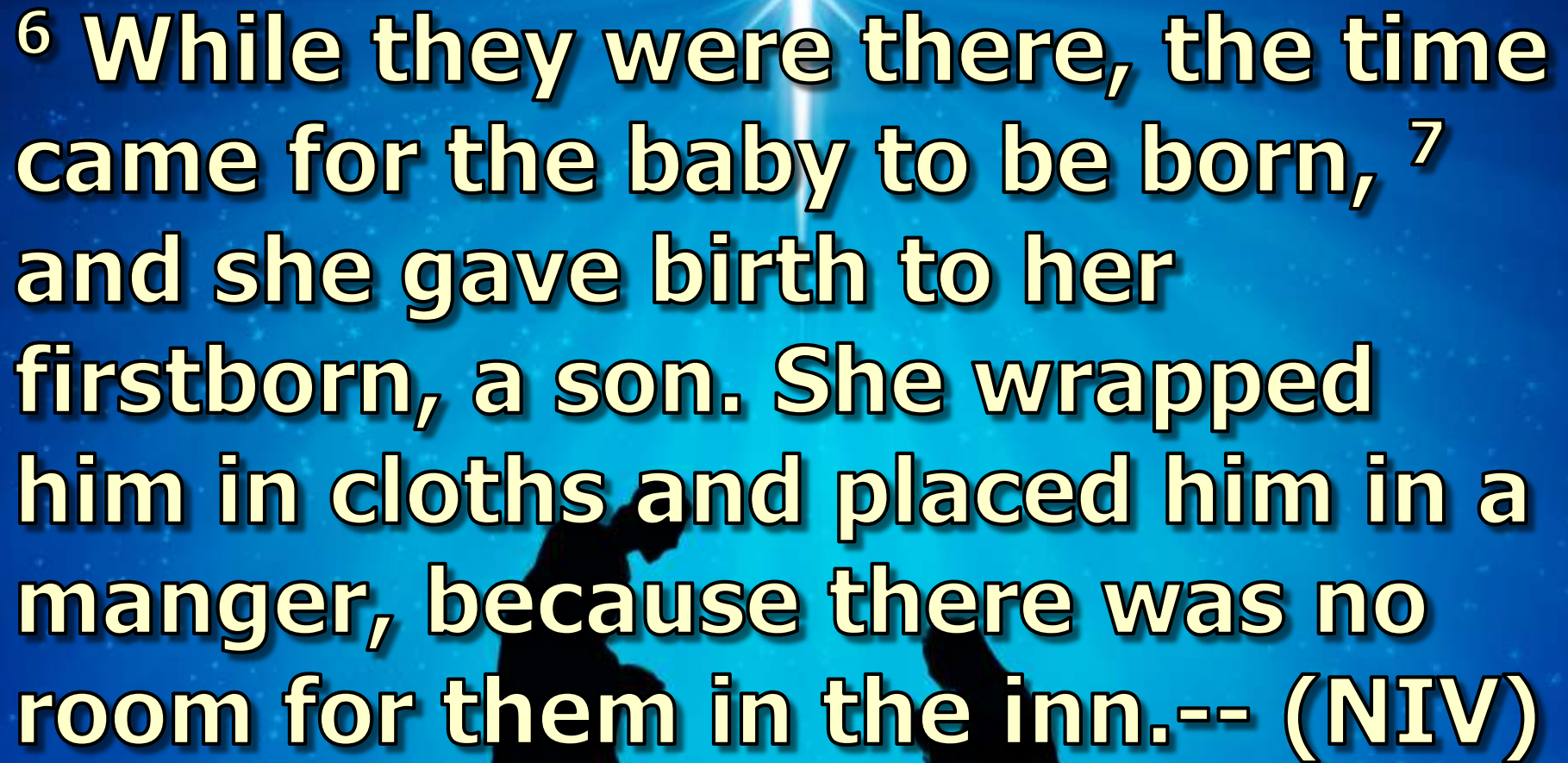
**Luke 2:4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.--
(NIV)**



D. God's Miracle Pattern.

**Exodus 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"--
(NIV)**



The background is a deep blue with a subtle pattern of small white stars. A bright, multi-pointed starburst is centered at the top. In the lower portion, there are dark silhouettes of figures, likely Mary and Joseph, with a manger containing a baby between them.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.-- (NIV)

Luke 2:6-7

2. God's Miracle Method Includes Us.

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.-- (NIV)

**A. Look At The Powerful
People NOT Invited.**

Matthew 2:4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. (NIV)

B. Look At The Humble

People Invited.

Luke 2:8–13 ⁸ 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.

C. God Uses Ordinary People.

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.-- (NIV)



3. God's Miracle Method **Sanctifies Us.**

Romans 11:33 Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!-- (NLT)



A. God's Method Involves Problems

Matthew 1:19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.-- (NIV)



B. God's Method Involves Pain.

**Matthew 2:3 When King
Herod heard this he was
disturbed, and all
Jerusalem with him.--
(NIV)**



Matthew 2:13

**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."--
(NIV)**



C. God's Method Involves Progress.

Romans 5:3–5 ³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.-- (NIV)

The Miracle of the Method

