

GRATITUDE FOR HIS PROVIDENCE

Series: "WE'VE NEVER NEEDED CHRISTMAS MORE THAN NOW", Part 1 of 4

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Texts: Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25

Big Idea: The more we understand God's providential interventions in our lives, the more our hearts swell with gratitude.

"God's gracious oversight and provision as He guides the lives of His people."

"A remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent causal connection."

PROVIDENCE: "God's gracious oversight and provision as He guides the lives of His people."

COINCIDENCE: "A remarkable concurrence of events or circumstances without apparent causal connection."

Luke 1:26-38, "In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18-25, 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. 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.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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.” 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.” ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Providence

Provide

Romans 8:28: “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Big idea: The more we understand God’s providential interventions in our lives, the more our hearts swell with gratitude.

Job 10:12, “You gave me life and showed me kindness, and in your providence watched over my spirit.”

Express gratitude daily for God’s providence in your life.

Job 34:14-15, “If it were his intention and he withdrew his spirit and breath, ¹⁵ all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust.”