

# Christmas Out of the Box

Because of the importance of Christmas, how we understand the stories of Jesus' birth matters. What we think they're about – how we hear them, read them, interpret them – matters.

~ Marcus J. Borg

The Christmas story is the entire Christian gospel in miniature. Get it, and you get everything; miss it, and you miss all.

~ John Dominic Crossan

Neither the familiarity nor the season's festivities should prevent us from realizing the scandal that God came into human history completely helpless, as a newborn, and was laid in a feeding trough.

~ R. Alan Culpepper

What is remarkable about Luke's account of Christ's birth is the absolute lack of fanfare. No one could imagine a more humble birth, one that hardly would be created from imagination if one were making up the details of this story. Thus, the very humility built into the scene points to the account's credibility.

~ Darrell L. Bock

The incarnation shows us that humanness and sinfulness are not synonymous. Sinfulness is a perversion of humanness.

~ Myron S. Augsburger

The "sign" of the Good News given to the shepherds is not what modern readers might regard as a sign – some extraordinary miracle. Rather, the sign is as common as a baby to be found in poor circumstances, lying in a feeding trough. This is saying something to us.

~ Fred B. Craddock

All the poor, insignificant, forgotten people of the world can gather around the manger and dare to believe that the Babe who lies there really belongs to them.

~ M. O. Tobert

At the heart of Luke's understanding of the redemption wrought by Jesus was his knowledge that in him the excluded had been included and the outsider had been brought within the people of God.

~ Eric Franklin

By entering human history this way, God identified with the powerless, the oppressed, the poor, and the homeless.

~ R. Alan Culpepper

**And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

~ Luke 2:10-11 (ESV)