

## OVERWHELMING THE OBSTACLES

**Text: Luke 1:26-38**

**Key Word: Overwhelming**

**Key Thought: God's Plans Overwhelm any Obstacles**

The famous song titled *"It's the Most Wonderful Time of Year"* truly misses the most meaningful parts that surround the birth of Christ. In fact, there will never be a replacement story or form of entertainment to compare with the biblical story of the birth of the Messiah.

My ears often perk up when I hear people asking the question *"So what does Christmas mean to you?"* Normally we hear of spending time with family and friends, singing of carols and exchanging gifts. These are all good to do but truly are overwhelmingly short in comparison.

The Biblical story of the birth of Jesus highlights many stories of overcoming insurmountable odds. The few verses that I've included in our text highlight the fact that Mary was a virgin that was six months pregnant. In fact, three times she is noted as being a virgin.

*"But she was greatly perplexed at what he said, and kept carefully considering what kind of greeting this was.*

*30. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.*

*31. Listen carefully: **you will conceive** in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.*

*32. **He will be great and eminent and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;***

*33. **and He will reign** over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end."*

*34. Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin and have no intimacy with any man?"*

*35. Then the angel replied to her, "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you [like a cloud];** for that reason the holy (pure, sinless) Child shall be called the Son of God.*

*Luke 1:29-35 AMP*

What an incredible story of truth that is unmatched from the time of creation to this present day! And the remarkable thing about all of this set this is just one story of multitudes of miraculous stories that have been recorded and passed on for thousands of years.

Beginning with the creation story were God makes everything out of nothing and then sustains His creation even though mankind has done plenty in an attempt blot out his supernatural powers. We then travelled the dusty roads that unveiled the lives of the patriarchs. The next books contain the story of freedom given to the Israelite people. Pharaoh could not keep his slaves and the Red Sea was no match for God's will. The children of Israel were also given laws to live by as they journey through overwhelming obstacles the Sinai wilderness.

Even rocks could not hold back the water and the sky opened up to feed the hungry with manna. Judges came and judges left. Kings and queens rose to power and many face their doom. Songs and poems inspired the readers of its pages. Prophets teeter tottered blending messages of judgment and redemption. They were called by God to tell the truth to a people who forsook it time and time again. **God constantly overwhelmed the obstacles.**

The greatest miracles were still to unfold. The final stage was set. Those chosen to portray the continual unveiling of God's preordained will awaited their cue. The curtains rolled back and the New Testament script was revealed to the world.

1. God was conceived by the Holy Spirit
2. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary
3. Mary was betrothed to Joseph
4. Mary and Joseph were of the house and lineage of king David
5. Jesus was born in Bethlehem
6. His name was Jesus because He would save people of their sin
7. His kingdom would never end

God proved to us that He overcomes obstacles by overwhelming them. It is not mind over matter or positive thinking. It is Divine Intervention to accomplish everlasting rewards. What is shows every open mind is the same response that sums up this story.

*"For nothing is impossible with God."*

*Luke 1:37*

The impossibilities of life are transformed into possibilities through God. Pain is turned into gain. Sickness becomes just another mountain that can be moved. Job loss turns into a new position to acquire new skills. Loss of loved ones opens the opportunity for new relationships to be formed. God is not thwarted by obstacles. He creates stepping stones out of stumbling blocks.

“More than nineteen hundred years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did he cross the boundary of the country in which he lived; that was during his exile in childhood.

He possessed neither wealth nor influence. His relatives were inconspicuous, and had neither training nor formal education. In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; and manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, and yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all songwriters combined.

He never founded a college, but all the schools together cannot boast of having as many students.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

He never practised psychiatry, and yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors far and near. Once each week the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes when their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage in respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesman of Greece and Rome have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians of come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not destroy Him and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.”

N. J. Oradell  
“*The Incomparable Christ*”  
American Track Society

“Jesus Christ, the condescension of divinity, and the exaltation of humanity.”

Phillips Brooks

“I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world there was no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have found such empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for.”

Napoleon Bonaparte  
cited by Frank Mead  
“The Encyclopedia of Religious Quotations”

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Date: Dec 24/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Christmas Offering (I Bring an Offering) - F,G