

The image features a festive Christmas theme. A large, white, glossy Christmas ornament is the central focus, set against a background of warm, glowing colors in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The background has a soft, bokeh-like texture with some faint floral or leaf patterns. The title "A RANDOM CHRISTMAS" is written in a white, elegant serif font across the center of the ornament. The word "A" is significantly larger and more decorative than the others, with a flourish extending from its top left. "RANDOM" and "CHRISTMAS" are stacked below it, with thin horizontal lines separating the words. The entire scene is framed by a thin red border.

A
RANDOM
CHRISTMAS

Random

**Made, done, happening,
or chosen without
method or conscious
decision.**



Dealing with Random

“Everything happens for a reason.”

“I don’t believe in coincidence.”

“You just haven’t met the right person yet.”

“I guess it wasn’t meant to be.”



**Christians
connect dots
and call it a
“God thing.”**



**When tragedy
strikes, we ask
“Why?”**



**We want suffering
to connect to
something
purposeful.**



**We naturally
assume there
is a purpose**



Random Reminder

The world isn't as random as we might think.



Random Reminder

The world isn't as random as we might think.

There really is a story.



Random Reminder

The world isn't as random as we might think.

There really is a story.

Life is connected.



God's Take

Not only to... remind.

To reorient.

To connect dots.

To give us our bearings



Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



Luke 1:26-27

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.



Luke 1:28-30

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.



Luke 1:28-33

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”



Luke 1:34-37

How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”



**NOT
Random!**



**Mary doesn't hear
from the angel again.
Things get
back to random.
Only worse . . .**



**Next thing she
knows, she's
pregnant and riding
a donkey from
Nazareth to
Bethlehem**



**Everybody's staring
because she's
showing. And she
can't tell them
her story.**



Random Frustration

**“Miss Favored of God”
gets there...**

**The journey had been so long
that there were no rooms.**

**She and Joseph had to stay in a
stable.**



Random Frustration

Then they hear that Herod
wants to kill their child.



Random Frustration

**Then they hear that Herod
wants to kill their child.**

**Then Mary gets the worse
news imaginable.**



Random Frustration

Then they hear that Herod wants to kill their child.

Then Mary gets the worse news imaginable.

How could she not feel as if it were her fault?





**Living faith is
not faith that
moves God.**



**Living faith is faith
that moves us
to trust God when
he doesn't seem
to be moving**



**Living faith is to
respond to the
seemingly random
events of life as if
they are part of the
perfect plan of God.**



Ephesians 1:11

**In him we were also chosen,
having been predestined
according to the plan of him
who works out everything in
conformity with the purpose of
his will**



Luke 1:38

**“I am the Lord’s
servant. May it
be to me as you
have said.”**



**NOT
Random!
But a divine story**

