

## A Strange Way to Save the World

### Scripture Reading — Jeremiah 29:11-13

*“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

—Jeremiah 29:11 —

I don't blame people for missing what happened in the small town of Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. Who would have thought that the Lord of heaven and earth would come into the world as a child born in a stable?

We are about to close the book on 2014. Today you might find yourself remembering some of the triumphs and trials of the past year. Even if you have had some wonderful successes in the past twelve months, you can probably remember some low points as well.

As you enter a new year, I hope you can remember that God's plans have always been to prosper his people. He can transform ordinary events and difficult trials into key moments that help his plans to prosper. He is not out to harm us, but the dark moments we experience can be part of the most important lessons to help us grow nearer to him.

God has a way of saving his world that we may find hard to understand. He introduced his Son into the world and brought about our salvation in a way that could easily be overlooked—and yet he has changed the world, and his kingdom keeps growing. That same God comes into our lives and draws us into his plans for a hope-filled future!

### Prayer

*Lord, my life is in your hands. I praise you for the joys you have brought in the past year, and for the ways you refine me through the trials in my life. Prepare me to be part of your work in the year ahead. In Jesus, Amen.*

**Devotion topics:** [Bible](#), [God](#), [God's Plan](#)

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