

Beyond Normalcy

Mary and Joseph showed *courage beyond* . . .
their ability to explain God's plan
and through the many complicated circumstances.

One of the frustrations with the lack of progress is we often
_____ associate progress with success.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. ... Psalm 23:2-3

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. Isaiah 55:8

Though the Christmas story (Matt. 2 and Luke 2) can be read in just a couple of minutes, and a movie can cover the story in an hour or two, the truth is that those chapters took about _____ years.
{from conception till back living in Nazareth}

Keep in mind,
Jesus didn't begin His ministry until He was _____.

Our *courage* must remain, no matter the . . .

D _____ . Matthew 2:1-5

Pregnant in Nazareth ~ Give birth in Bethlehem
Caring for a babe in Bethlehem ~ Flee to Egypt
Waiting to return to Bethlehem ~ Return to Nazareth
Wise men come to Jerusalem ~ then to Bethlehem

But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11

Just because " _____ " change,
doesn't mean God does.

Our *courage* must remain, no matter the . . .

D _____ . (not everything is instant) Matthew 2:9-12

Event	Months	Date
Pregnancy—Birth	9	7 - 6 B.C.
Wise Men visit the Child	20	5 - 4 B.C.
Time in Egypt	8-12	4 - 3 B.C.

... (God) acts on behalf of those who wait for Him. Isaiah 64:4

Two facts to keep in mind:

God is and has always been about _____. 1 Cor. 2:9
Waiting is a time of training and testing our _____.

Our *courage* must remain, no matter the . . .

D _____ . Matthew 2:13-15

Trip	Approx. Miles	Walking 17-20 miles a day
Naz. - Beth.	92	5 days
Beth. - Egypt	100-200	6-11 days
Egypt - Naz.	220	12 days

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. Hebrews 10:36

We cannot expect to _____ from God,
if we're unwilling to follow Him *to* the blessings.

Our **D** _____ (*JOY*) comes from *what* God
is doing more than *how or when* He's doing it.

Optional Reading: Key Word is "Wait." (14 chapters)

Psalms 5, 27, 33, 37, 38, 40, 130 **Lamentations** 3
Hosea 12 **Micah** 7 **Romans** 8 **1 Corinthians** 4
Titus 2 **Jude** 1