



December 2008

If there is one word that can best describe events in the world this past year, it would be "crisis." Most recently, the headlines in the media have centered around the terrorist crisis in Mumbai, the political crisis in Ottawa and the global economic crisis. One hesitates to read the newspapers or listen to the radio for fear of learning of another crisis.

The times were not much different when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The details of the crises may have been different but the root and origin of them was not. The source was - and is - sin. The sin with which we were born and the sin we daily commit can only lead from one destructive crisis to another. And the biggest crisis of all is that people are dead in sin.

Into this sinful world God became incarnate. He came intentionally and purposefully to redeem fallen mankind from sin. The Apostle Paul summarized it so well when he wrote: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Rom. 6:23)

In the noise and commotion of a world in continual crisis, the gift of God brings forgiveness and peace. The Prince of Peace came to us and for us in Bethlehem; in love, He offered Himself up as a sacrifice for our sin at Calvary; and in victory He rose again and points us to our own resurrection on the last day.

As you celebrate the good news of Christ who came to us first in Bethlehem, may He fill your hearts with joy and peace. In the midst of crises, God grant you hope and assurance, "...for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord!"

Sincerely in Christ,

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Jesus, Lord, at thy birth