



REFLECTIONS

December 25, 2016

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace .**

Isaiah 9:6

Reflecting on Christmas—the Child

The night came alive. Heaven broke into song and glittering stars danced in the sky. One of them caught the eye of some Magi hundreds of miles away enticing the star gazers to begin a lengthy journey from the east. Meanwhile, just outside Bethlehem, *there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."* (Luke 2:8-12)

So in darkness began the parade. Shepherds leaving their sheep in search of a newborn Child to lead them; Magi for a King to save them; and Herod fearing the one they were seeking would strip him of his power. Searchers, all.

Aren't we searchers too? Each day renews our pursuit. It begins in darkness in search of the light—some ah-ha moment that says this is it. Happiness, we think. But when found, does happiness satisfy? Does happiness relieve our fears? Does not the darkness of pain still linger, or is grief overcome, or does not death still loom?

Our need is for peace. Not just the absence of war, but freedom from pain, and grief, and death, and the fear of them. Perfect peace—Satan has no power there. Perfect peace—peace of the heart. That's where Light is.

For God so loved the world that He gave us his only begotten Son. He brought him into the world one night, with heaven breaking into song, glittering stars dancing in the sky; and a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger—Christ Jesus was born... the Prince of Peace.

*"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
(Luke 2:14 NKJV)*

Merry Christmas.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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