

A Mary Christmas

That first Christmas for Mary fell way short of expectations – it was painful, stressful, lonely and scary. Yet Mary had hope, for this was no ordinary child.

Luke 2:4-7

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Isaiah 9:2-7

2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great **light**; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their **joy**; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

6 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.**

7 Of the increase of his government and **peace** there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with **justice** and **righteousness** from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.