

The background of the slide is a composite image. The upper portion shows a dark night sky filled with numerous small stars. A single, exceptionally bright star in the upper left quadrant emits a powerful, wide beam of light that extends downwards across the center of the image. The lower portion of the image shows a dark, silhouetted landscape of hills and valleys. In the distance, a city or town is visible, its lights glowing against the dark terrain. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, blacks, and the warm white/yellow of the star and city lights.

# THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IS A MESSAGE OF HOPE

(25<sup>th</sup> of December 2018)

- Bro. Peter Luis  
- (Hon. Missionary)

A night sky filled with stars. A bright star in the upper left corner emits a powerful beam of white light that cuts through the darkness and shines down onto a distant, glowing city nestled in a valley. The foreground shows a dark, rocky landscape under the night sky.

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## SCRIPTURE

- 1) LUKE 2: 8 – 18
- 2) ISAIAH 9: 6 – 7





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**Story:** *A shepherd had two female sheep due to give birth to lambs. On the date of giving birth, the first mother sheep contracted some complications and died, leaving the lamb motherless. While the second mother sheep was giving birth, the lamb contracted some complications and died. Here was the dilemma, a motherless lamb and a lambless mother – the shepherd did the obvious, took the motherless lamb to the lambless mother to be nursed and live, but the mother would not allow it, as the lamb was not her own. The shepherd came upon an ingenious plan – he found the dead lamb and took off its wool, and wove a coat for the motherless lamb. Once again the mother as usual wanted to turn away, but this time, she smelt the coat aroma of her own and allowed the lamb to be nursed and live.*

(This powerful illustration has a link to the message in light of the message of hope)

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## THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS BIRTH:

- SHEPERDS (the common men) Luke 2:8-18
- WISE MEN (the intellectuals) Matt 2:1-12
- SIMEON (the spiritual/religious) Luke 2:25-35





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- JESUS HIMSELF DESCRIBED THE REASON FOR HIM BEING BORN (Isaiah 9: 6 – 7)
- A child is born; A son is given.
- Son Existed from eternity
- Jesus lived a pure & spotless life. He had to face the cross.
- “How can I turn away from the cross? For this very cause I came into the world”.
- The cross is the pivotal reason in order to bridge the gap between God and Men (Separation & Alienation).

A star in a dark sky with a beam of light shining down on a desert landscape.

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## ON THE CROSS

- The absoluteness of **love** was met (the fear of rejection was overcome).
- The satisfaction of **justice** (God is a Holy God & Someone had to pay the price. Jesus Christ has redeemed us from the curse, being made a curse for us).
- Impartation of **righteousness** by dying on the cross. Like in the story, the motherless lamb was alienated and separated, only when the mother smelled the coat of her own lamb, did she allow the motherless lamb to be nursed and live. Now when we come to Jesus, we come not with our own righteousness, but according to His, the clothing that He provides.





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## - RESURRECTION:

- It did not stop there, Christ died & rose again.
  - Interestingly, he appeared to a group of women & Simon Peter, the ***common people of those days.*** (Luke 24:1-12)
  - Second, He appeared to Thomas the thinker (John 20:24-29)
  - Lastly, He appeared to Saul of Tarsus, a religious bigot. (Acts 9:1-9)

*The message of Hope is for all: The common men, the intellectuals, the religious/spiritual.*

A night sky with a bright star in the upper left, casting a beam of light down towards a town visible in the distance. The foreground is a dark, rocky landscape.

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Luke 2:11

“Today in the town of David (Bethlehem – means House of Bread)”...

Truly, He is the Bread of Life



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## APPLICATION:

- Have you accepted/tasted the Bread of Life ?
- Are you a Witness for Him ?
- Are you serving Him ?
- “Jesus Christ – the reason for the season!”