

# First Breath



by Ken Proctor

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*He drew His first breath in a stable where, for generations, men had shut away the sheep, the goats, the donkeys and oxen... perhaps for centuries. And in that breath the dust of mud walls and dung floors, of sun dried hay and sun baked bricks, carried the history of his family, his tribe and his people.*

*His first breath was strong with the scent of the land: laced with the musky sweat of the beasts, the fetid dung, musty hay... the coppery, rusty-iron tang of his mother's blood, and the wooly, earthen scent of his father's calloused hands. Dry acacia wood stalls, worn leather tack, and perhaps, the oily smoke of a lamp wick.*

*But with that first breath, thousands of years of prophecy were met in one place. The promises and pledges of a sovereign, through his messengers and prophets, all pointing to this one place, this one time... this one breath: there shall come a king... a son shall be given... a lamb provided... from the seed of Abraham will he come, through the line of Isaac, and Jacob, and Jesse... born in the city of David... born of a virgin... a star will mark the place... with one breath fulfilled.*

*He drew His last breath on a hillside, a place where, perhaps for generations, men had been taken to die. Thieves, heretics, murderers, blasphemers...perhaps for centuries. And in that breath the tepid air carried the dust of the milling crowd, the stench of the ancient walled city, the musky sweat of beasts and men, and the coppery, rusty-iron tang of blood. Dry wood, worn leather straps, and iron nails.*

*And in that final breath, thousands of years of prophecy were met in one place. The promises and pledges of a sovereign, through his messengers and prophets, all pointing to this one place, this one time... this one breath: betrayed by a friend... for 30 silver coins... wounded and bruised... crucified with thieves... forsaken by man, forsaken by God.*

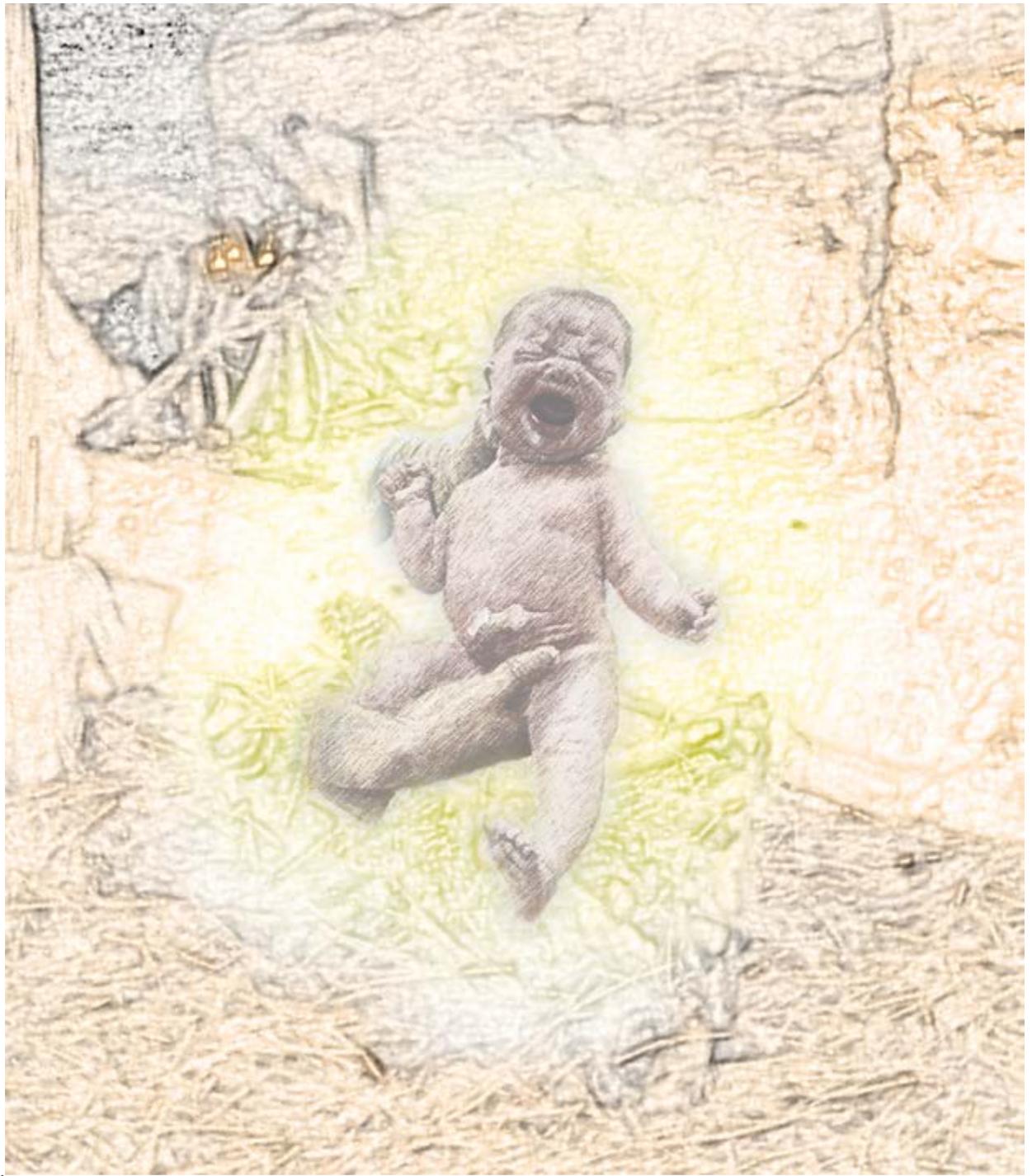
*But with that final breath He blew away the chains of sin, breached the wall between men and God, ripped the drapes that hid the holy places, and opened the path to forgiveness, redemption and salvation.*

*He did not come to destroy the laws of God, but to fulfill them. The holy lamb of God, a blood sacrifice to cover, once and for all time, our sin, so that we may live again... breath again.*

*And on the third day, the risen king drew His first breath, laced with linen, and the dust of hewn stone... heavy with the cloying aroma of frankincense, resins and myrrh... and the coppery, rusty-iron tang of dried blood.*

*But with that first breath, He tossed the shackles of Death, and secured for all mankind the hope and assurance of a life to come.*

*A child was born, a Son is given, and His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, the Everlasting Father.*



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## **Ken Proctor Spirit Driven Author**

A friend of Spirit Driven Leadership introduced Ken Proctor to us because Ken has a gift of communicating valuable lessons through stories and poetry. Fortunately, Spirit Driven Leadership has the wonderful opportunity to bring to our audience Ken's work. This material will come primarily in the form of articles, poems, short stories, lyrics and books.

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