(Topics and Lead-in Below)

One with Us



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ken Bible, inspired by John Dowland FLOW MY TEARS 2

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TOPICS: Atonement; Christmas; God's Love; Jesus' Suffering & Death;

Lent-Easter

LEAD-IN: *Have you ever noticed the parallels between Jesus' birth and His death?*

• *He was born and died in darkness.*

- *His helpless body was wrapped in cloth and laid in borrowed quarters.*
- He was immersed in suffering, shame, and desperate circumstances.
- *Jealous leaders pursued Him while humble women gently cared for His needs.*
- *His companions were the lowly and powerless.*

Jesus is a portrait of God our Father,

framed with tenderness, mercy, and selfless love.

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LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

A Life Framed with Love

Having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, [the Magi] returned to their country by another route.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."
(Matthew 2:12-18, NIV)

Jesus was born as He would die. He would die as He was born. The birth and death of the Light of the World were shrouded in darkness.

His trusted companions were the lowly and powerless.

Jealous leaders pursued Him with murderous hearts while humble women gently cared for His needs.

His helpless body was wrapped in cloth and laid in borrowed quarters.

Coming and going from this world, He was immersed in suffering, shame, and desperate circumstances.

Jesus is a portrait of God our Father, framed with tenderness, mercy, and sacrificial love.

Father, I look at the life of your Son, and
I see the full extent of Your love
etched on every page.
Throughout His birth, His life, and His death,
He drank our shame and suffering full strength.
Father, I bow in silence.
How can I respond to You?
How can I live my love for You?

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