

The Baby's Cry Was God's First Breath

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:11

Written by Bill Perkins

From the beginning,
Scripture spoke of the breath of God.

His breath filled the heavens,
ordering the stars-
like a conductor raising his hands
and filling the air with music.

"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of His mouth all their host."
(Psalm 33:6)

That same breath animated dust-
like rain waking a desert bloom.
"Then the LORD God formed man of dust
and breathed into his nostrils
the breath of life."
(Genesis 2:7)

His breath sustained life.
"The Spirit of God has made me,
and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."
(Job 33:4)

Breath as His ongoing gift:
"Thus says God the LORD?
who gives breath to all who live."
(Isaiah 42:5)

Breath as reviving power:
"I will cause breath to enter you,
that you may come to life."
(Ezekiel 37:5)

Yet in Bethlehem,
something happened for the first time.
At His birth,
the eternal Son inhaled.
Then He cried-
the first breath of the Word made flesh.

The voice that thundered at Sinai
now stirred in darkness-
like a feather on still water.
The Word who spoke galaxies
now lay in a manger-
eternity wrapped in a blanket,
heaven crying for a mother's touch,
for milk,
for embrace.

This is how He came.
Not with spectacle, but softness.
Not with armies, but with birth.
Not with a crown, but with a child's cry-
the breath of God in weakness,
the Infinite clothed in mortality,
the Eternal entering time,
the Creator cradled by His creation.

You may not know this about Jesus:
God's first breath in Bethlehem sounded like a baby's cry.

Father, I marvel-
that the breath which formed the heavens,
gave life to Adam,
sustained generations,
and revived dry bones
was revealed in the cry of Your Son
that night in Bethlehem.

Thank You for sending Him in weakness,
for drawing near in humility,
for making Him small enough
to rest in human arms.

Fill me with wonder at Your tenderness,
with gratitude for Your nearness.

Let my life echo that holy cry-
a song of praise.

I pray this in Jesus' name-
this Christmas and always.
Amen.