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CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL  
WEEK ONE: PROBLEM

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## Debt of Infinite Proportion

“We have found the Messiah!...We have found...Jesus.” - John 1:43a, 45

How sweet is the moment when we find the Savior. The moment when, after all our fruitless seeking for salvation in the world, we behold the Lamb of God with eyes transfixed and fall to our knees crying, “I have found the Messiah...I have found Jesus.” In the life of a believer, this moment does not happen merely once. The Lord promises that when we seek Him with our whole heart we will find Him continually. Year after year, we come to the Christmas season wherein we are given the chance to reorient our heart, soul and mind toward Jesus, our Messiah who came to earth in the flesh to rescue us and will come again in glory.

But why? Why did Christ have to come to earth as a man? Wouldn't it have been easier or more efficient for Christ to avoid humiliation and just...forgive us from heaven? No suffering required? “Without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness of sin.” (Hebrews 9:22b)

Consider space. Yes. The place where the stars are housed, or the primary location of the film *Interstellar*. This is the closest we can come to conceiving of something infinite. When we sinned, we incurred a debt of infinite proportion because we transgressed the perfect nature of an infinitely holy God (Romans 3:23). God is perfect love (1 John 4:8); He is perfect justice (Deuteronomy 32:4). So how could we pay our debt? Our sin had created an infinite chasm but we are finite beings; it was a chasm we could never bridge. At this moment in the story, we get to employ the Apostle Paul's favorite phrase: “But God...” But God knew, together with the Trinity, before the foundation of the world that He would make a way. “In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God and the WORD was God...And the WORD became *flesh* and dwelt among us...” (John 1:1,14)

Enter the WORD who became flesh. The new Beth-El, the new place where God would be present. The bridge. This Jesus, **fully God** (infinite) and **fully Man** (finite), the exact imprint of the radiance of the Father (Hebrews 1:3) was born into the arms of a young woman probably no more than 15 years old. Jesus was and is the **only** one who can rescue us, the only one who satisfies the justice of God, taking on the full weight of His wrath on our behalf, so that we can experience His perfect love for all eternity. Jesus Christ the Son of Man, both infinite and finite, in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwelt, gave his life as a ransom for...us. Christ willingly became what we could never be. He willingly did what we could never do. All so we can worship Him, love Him, and tell everyone we know, "I have found the Messiah...I have found **Jesus.**"

## Prayer

O God of Israel, during this advent season let me meditate on the glory of Jesus, whose very name means "Yahweh is Salvation." It is the name above all other names, the only name in which I can find salvation. As the old hymn says, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus look full in His wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace." Holy Spirit, turn my eyes, turn my heart, turn my thoughts upon Jesus and make Him more precious, more lovely, more glorious to me than anything else on this earth. In the holy name of Jesus, Amen.

