

Wrapped in Pieces of Love!

*KJV Luke 2:1-7 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;
5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.*

The very first clothing Jesus wore was called **swaddling!**

The Bible makes mention of this fact because even this (what some would call) a minor detail has great significance.

Clothing and garments have major importance in scripture because they can represent a person's status, function and purpose in life.

Clothing can also represent a person's moral and spiritual qualities—it protects, conceals and displays a person's current condition.

So Luke the Physician tells us that as soon as Jesus was born He was **wrapped in swaddling clothes.**

❖ What are **swaddling clothes**? It comes from the word *swathe* which means to bind with bandages.

They are thin strips of cloth infants were wrapped in at birth!

These strips of cloth, like narrow bandages were used in the development of the child—to help the limbs grow straight.

So swaddling was a mark of parental love and care; they were a sign a child was **accepted as legitimate.**

God has **Ezekiel** remind Israel of her beginnings when he says:

KJV Ezekiel 16:2-4 Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations,

3 And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto Jerusalem; Thy birth and thy nativity is of the land of Canaan; thy father was an Amorite, and thy mother an Hittite.

*4 And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, **nor swaddled at all.***

Isn't this the same way God found us?

We were born into a world full of sin and danger—our parents were born in sin and for some raised us in sin!

Some listening may have been abandoned, left home alone or raised by the streets.

Had no one to comfort you—when you fell there was no one there to pick you up dust you off, clean you up and put bandages on your wound

Ezekiel 16:5 No one looked on you with pity or had compassion enough to do any of these things for you. Rather, you were thrown out into the open field, for on the day you were born you were despised.

6 "I saw you kicking on the ground in your blood as I was passing, and I said to you as you lay in your blood: Live!

Wherever we were Jesus came by saw us in our sinful, damaged, rejected state and said to us LIVE!

7 I made you grow like a plant of the field. You grew up and developed and became the most beautiful of jewels. Your breasts were formed and your hair grew, you who were naked and bare.

8 "Later I passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign LORD, and you became mine.

9 "Then I bathed you with water, washed off your blood from you, and anointed you with oil.

10 I clothed you with an embroidered dress and put leather sandals on you. I dressed you in fine linen and covered you with costly garments.

11 I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms and a necklace around your neck,

12 and I put a ring on your nose, earrings on your ears and a beautiful crown on your head.

13 So you were adorned with gold and silver; your clothes were of fine linen and costly fabric and embroidered cloth. Your food was fine flour,

honey and olive oil. and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into royalty.

Basically God is saying: ***“I swaddled you!”***

I wrapped you in swaddling clothes to show you I love you!

I wrapped my loving arms around you saved and delivered you because I love you and no one else could do it!

I clothed you, fed you and took care of all your needs because I love you

The beauty that you have right now is because I cleaned you up and put clothes on you!

The fragrance that you carry is because of the anointing I placed on your life!

God said to Israel and us today:

Everything you are, everything you have and everything you hope to be is because **I swaddle you!**

Even now my loving arms are holding your life together!

- We can do all things through Christ who SWADDLES us!
- He places each **strip of clothe** just where we need it!

When things get out of line in our lives He places a strip of cloth there to straighten us out!

When God restricts our movement it's not to control us, it's a sign that we are **accepted as His children.**