



# Thrill of Hope

## In Difficult Times

### Key Scripture

Psalm 31:24 NKJV

Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, **All you who hope in the Lord.**

### The Best of Times...The Worst of Times

Luke 2:1-7 NKJV

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

### Difficult Times...“Why Now?”

#### ✓ Financial

Romans 13:7 NLT

Give to everyone what you owe them: **Pay your taxes and government fees** to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

#### ✓ Career

Ecclesiastes 2:23 CEV

Our bodies ache during the day, and work is torture. Then at night our thoughts are troubled. **It just doesn't make sense.**

#### ✓ Relationships

Proverbs 17:9 CEV

You will keep your friends if you forgive them, but **you will lose your friends if you keep talking about what they did wrong.**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Difficult Times... Are the Best Times for Hope

#### 1. Your **worst** time may be Gods best time.

Luke 2:2-5 NKJV

2 **This census** first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, **everyone to his own city.** 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, **his betrothed wife, who was with child.**

#### 2. There's not a time when God's not in **charge!**

Luke 2:7 NKJV

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because **there was no room for them in the inn.**

#### 3. Endure difficult times by **considering** what Jesus has done.

Luke 2:33-35 ERV

33 Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what Simeon said about Him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, "Many Jews will fall and many will rise because of this boy. He will be a sign from God that some will not accept.

35 So the secret thoughts of many will be made known. And the **things that happen will be painful for you—like a sword cutting through your heart.**"

Hebrews 12:1-3 NIV

1 ...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and **let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.**  
2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy set before Him endured the cross,** scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 **Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_