



From panning the Word of Life

Some small insights that will undergird those who are called of God to walk in *present truth*.

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Luke 2:7 *And she* (Mary) *brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger ...*

There was a childbirth custom from a ways back ... Ezek. 16:4 *Thou wast not salted at all nor swaddled at all*. A tiny piece of salt was rubbed on the baby to indicate that the parents intend to teach the child to be truthful. The babe is then wrapped in swaddling bands which are linen strips about two inches wide (5 cms.) wrapped round and round the body to straighten him out. His arms and legs especially are made straight as a ram-rod.

This indicates that the parents will raise the child to be straightforward before the Lord and free from any crookedness. The child is left in this restricted position for a period of time ranging from 15 minutes to two hours! While this time passes, the parents make their vows to God concerning their child. This is a ritual for well-born babies (not babies of the poor {half-hearted conversions!}) and since Mary knew that her child was to be called '*the Son of God*', she included this important ceremony before the arrival of their royal guests.

The first prayers over a new convert now should be along the same commitment to see that these babes in Christ are creatingly spoken over to walk fully in truth in all things and be free from any compromising crookedness of character. §