Have you filed your taxes? In the U.S., today is the deadline. But, taxes are certainly nothing new and they are certainly not an American concept.

Had it not been for the tax decree from Caesar Augustus over two thousand years ago, the prophecy of Christ's coming could not have been fulfilled.

Prophecy…*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2*

Prophecy fulfilled…*And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. Luke 2:1-5*
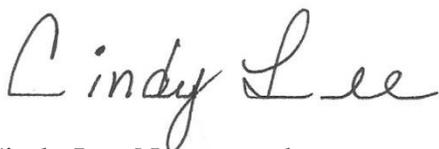
Jesus birth had to be in Bethlehem to fulfill the prophecy. The tax decree forced Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem to be taxed. It had to have been disturbing, to say the least, for them to have to travel with Mary being "great with child". They had to travel over a great distance with none of the comforts we have now. Laboring over rocky and dry terrain with no air conditioning, no plush interior seating, and no state of the art suspension system. They plodded along with Mary on a donkey. All because of taxes.

That was the beginning of what would be our salvation.

There is a saying "The only things that are certain in life are death and taxes". Jesus came to overcame death with eternal life. He paid the debt for our sin. It is up to us to pay our taxes.

Taxes are part of our lot in life. As you sigh in relief as this tax season passes, remember the One who paid the price for eternity.

Blessing to you always,

Cindy Lee Nonnemacher
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