

## The Voice of the Manger

Several voices speak within the sphere of man.

There is the voice of the circumstances of life;  
Those of the past,  
    which fill the memory;  
Those of the present,  
    which sometimes intimidate even the most courageous soul;  
Those of the future,  
    whose message is borne on the wings of the imagination.  
Each offers life or death,  
    depending on how it is perceived.

There is the voice of man's sinful humanity;  
One called to have dominion over his world;  
But disheartened by the burden of his own sinfulness;  
Ever trying to make himself whole,  
    by drawing upon the depravity within himself.

There is the voice of God;  
Whose dominion stands as life's greatest reality;  
Whose Being yearns to extend the power of His dominion  
    to the heart of man;  
To lift him above the circumstances of life;  
To free him from the bondage of his nature;  
To set his feet on the Rock that is not shaken,  
    by memories of the past,  
    circumstances of the present,  
    or fears of the future.

It is THAT voice,  
    that was carried to the heart of man,  
    in the manger of Bethlehem.

Born in 1940, Ken Stoltzfus has worked as a pilot, ordained Christian minister, businessman, missionary to Africa and writer. This is #12 in the section, "Poetry and Piety", at [www.John2031.com](http://www.John2031.com), and is one of many short writings that can be found there.

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