

Peace on Earth

“Glory to God in the highest, **and on earth peace**, good will toward men.”

Luke 2:14

Introduction:

1. The text is one of the greatest events in history as God the Father announced a birth (Luke 2:8-20).
 - a. An angelic herald declared good tidings of great joy to all people – who was born and where born.
 - b. Jesus was born in Bethlehem; He is Lord and Christ, and He is the only Saviour (Acts 2:36; 4:12).
 - c. Then many more angels joined in to praise God with the words of the great text above (Luke 2:14).
 - d. This is no surprise, for the angels desire to look into these things (I Pet 1:11; I Tim 3:16; Eph 3:10).
 - e. God is to be praised in the highest, by the highest, and with the highest praise, for He is the highest.
 - f. God sent peace by Jesus for His people (Acts 10:36), but there is no peace to the wicked (Is 48:22).
 - g. Peace with God by Jesus Christ is an incredible event by God’s power and wisdom (I Co 1:17-31).
 - h. God showed His good will toward mankind by redeeming some of the very worst of those men.
 - i. If we were as holy and wise as Mary, we would keep these sayings and ponder them in our hearts.
 - j. If we were as holy and wise as the shepherds, we would noise it abroad and glorify and praise God.
2. Peace is a simple concept – *the absence of war or hostilities and freedom from it and its anxiety; peace is the quiet, secure, serene, and tranquil condition between two parties not at war with each other.*
3. Peace is a wonderful thing – so precious that it can turn a dry morsel into a feast where it is (Pr 17:1).
4. Jesus once turned a great storm into a great calm by saying, *Peace, be still*, but this here is far greater.
5. Paul told churches an excellent thing they could for their pastors was to be at peace (I Thess 5:12-13).
6. The world does not have peace ... does not know the source of peace ... and are constantly at war.
 - a. God promised there was no peace to the wicked, and their lusts preclude it (Isaiah 48:22; Tit 3:3).
 - b. Thus, even those living in prosperous and secure nations resort to drugs, drunkenness, divorce, etc.
 - c. For example, The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Neville Chamberlain, arrived back in London on September 30, 1938 after meeting with Adolph Hitler of Nazi Germany and said, “The settlement of the Czechoslovakian problem, which has now been achieved is, in my view, only the prelude to a larger settlement in which all Europe may find peace.... We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again.... My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Go home and get a nice quiet sleep.”
 - d. For example, the Polish people could hardly have peace living between Germany and Russia, and the Katyn Massacre was believed equally by the world to have been done by Germany or Russia.
 - e. For example, America’s peace was destroyed internally by its bloodiest conflict – the Civil War.
 - f. For example, the hippies of the 1970’s proclaimed free love and peace while demonstrating.
 - g. For example, communism boasts of ending class war but is known for its many genocidal rulers.
7. The Christian world cannot even get this angelic proclamation correct in their modern Bible versions.
 - a. The English Standard Version reads, *On earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.*
 - b. God’s Word translation reads, *On earth peace to those who have his good will!*
 - c. The Douay-Rheims Catholic Bible reads, *On earth peace to men of good will.*
 - d. Young’s Literal Translation reads, *Upon earth peace, among men – good will.*
 - e. For many more variations of modern Bible versions ... <https://www.biblestudytools.com/luke/2-14-compare.html>.

NEED for Peace

- A. Consider three terrible events that took place 4-6 thousand years ago by God’s wrath.
 1. We defied our Creator in Eden, so He righteously drove our parents out of Paradise.
 2. Just 1656 years later, He drowned and suffocated all but eight for their wickedness.

3. Just 100 years later, God confounded man's language and scattered them all over.
4. Consider well ... *Get out!* (of Eden) ... *Drown!* (in the Flood) ... *Babble!* (at Babel).
- B. God picked the smallest nation to befriend, and He waged violent war against the rest.
 1. He has indignation against Amalek forever (Ex 17:14,16; De 25:19). Are you better?
 2. He hates Edom, and He will destroy if they try to build (Mal 1:1-5). Are you better?
 3. When His church sinned, He first sent Nebuchadnezzar and then sent Titus Caesar.
- C. God is angry with the wicked every day – there is no peace to them (Ps 7:11; Is 48:22).
 1. God is holy; He hates all workers of iniquity and will abhor them (Ps 5:4-6; 11:4-6).
 2. By nature you are God's enemy; He has wrath for you (Jn 3:36; Rom 1:18; Eph 2:3).
- D. He is willing to show His wrath and display His power on men (Rom 9:22; I Thess 5:9).
 1. His hatred of sin and sinners is great; He prepared a lake of fire for angels and men.
 2. This is no purgatory or temporary purging place but rather a place of eternal torment.
- E. Other religions try to appease God to no avail by human sacrifice, vows of celibacy, vows of poverty, self-mutilation, prayers for the dead, religious rituals of all kinds, etc.
- F. You have been dropped like a paratrooper into the most ferocious and furious war ever.

PROPHECY of Peace

- A. Isaiah wrote of Messiah dying for His people – being chastised for their peace (Is 53:5)
 1. **Chastise.** To inflict punishment or suffering upon, with a view to amendment; also simply, to punish, to inflict punishment (esp. corporal punishment) on.
 2. In case you think of chastisement lightly, think again (Lev 26:28; Luke 23:16,22).
 3. In case you think of chastisement lightly ... notice in context wound, bruise, stripes.
- B. Haggai exhorted Zerubbabel to build the second temple for God's peace (Hag 2:6-9).
 1. He was discouraged by its pitiful state, but God promised it glory above Solomon's.
 2. The peace would be brought by the Desire of all Nations ... ripping the temple veil!
 3. The transcendent peace secured was compared to ... shaking the heavens and earth.

WHAT of Peace

- A. There are facets of salvation and synonyms for peace that will bring this subject to life.
 1. It is God Himself that chose these various other terms to expand the bland *salvation*.
 2. There are many more, some relating loosely to relational peace, but we stress three.
- B. **Reconciliation.** To bring two antagonistic and warring parties to a peaceful and final settlement of differences, so that they are agreeable and united with each other again.
 1. Think of warring spouses or making bank accounts and financial statements to agree.
 2. The Bible uses this synonym for peace over and over (Rom 5:9-10; II Cor 5:18-20).
 3. Some are accepted in the Beloved (Eph 1:6), but others are unknown (Mat 7:21-23).
- C. **Propitiation.** Appeasing an offended party to bring about reconciliation and peace; to render propitious or favorably inclined; to appease, conciliate (one offended).
 1. Propitious = disposed to be favorable; well-disposed, favorably inclined; gracious.
 2. Jacob sent a gift to Esau to appease him; it worked (Gen 32:20), but we have more.
 3. Jesus is propitiation for our sins, appeasing God to be favorable (Rom 3:25; I Jn 2:2).

- D. **Atonement.** Make two offended parties united in one peaceful relationship again.
1. Very simple put, the word *atonement* contains its own meaning – to put *at one* again.
 2. Lest we think justification, reconciliation the sum, Paul added *atonement* (Ro 5:11).
 3. Romans 5:6-11 ... death, justification, reconciliation, intercession, and atonement.
- E. For *Facets of Salvation* ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/salvation/facets-of-salvation/sermon.php>.

HOW of Peace

- A. Jesus secured peace with the Father by His blood and His body (Col 1:18-22). Glory!
- B. His death destroyed the damning Law of Moses for Jews and Gentiles (Eph 2:14-18).
- C. Jesus died to reconcile His elect to God the Judge of all (Romans 5:10; Heb 2:14-15).
- D. Furthermore, He now lives to make intercession for them (Rom 5:10; 8:34; Heb 7:25).
- E. God spared not His Own Son but delivered Him up for all His elect (Romans 8:31-33).
- F. It pleased God to bruise His Son instead of you to make peace with Him (Isaiah 53:10).
- G. Do you want to see the fury and violence of God against sinners? Look at the cross!

WHO of Peace

- A. He has many names as ruler of God's kingdom, including *Prince of Peace* (Is 9:6-7).
- B. He is called the *Desire of all Nations* by Haggai for the peace He won (Haggai 2:6-9).
- C. Heavenly messengers announced Him to earth as *Saviour – Christ the Lord* (Luke 2:11).
- D. He is called the *Advocate with the Father* by John for propitiating peace (I John 2:1-2).
- E. He is named after Melchisedec – King of Salem, *King of peace* (Ps 110:4; Heb 7:1-3).
- F. Simon found consolation and peace in Joseph and Mary's infant Son (Luke 2:25-35).

WHOM of Peace

- A. It is God's elect that obtain peace by God sending Jesus Christ for them (Rom 8:32-33).
- B. Evidence of peace and reconciliation with God is faithfulness (Col 1:18-23; John 8:31).

WHEN of Peace

- A. Daniel prophesied it would occur 486.5 years after Cyrus took the throne (Da 9:24-27).
- B. It did exactly on schedule, when Jesus cried, *It is finished!* (John 19:30; Mat 27:50-54).
- C. For prophecy of *Six Things Determined* ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/six-things-determined.pdf>.

WHY of Peace

- A. It was God's love for His people – to show the universe His full character (I John 4:10).
- B. He chose to use some of Adam's fallen race to display His rich mercy (Rom 9:22-24).
- C. It was the good pleasure of His will and the praise of His grace to do so (Eph 1:4-6).
- D. He wanted angels to see something not done for the sinning angels (Ep 3:10; I Pet 1:11).

HOW MUCH of Peace

- A. Let your heart and mind rejoice in the superabundance of peace between God and us.
- B. The LORD Jehovah, the great and dreadful and terrible God, is the *God of Peace* to us (Rom 15:33; 16:20; II Cor 13:11; Phil 4:9; I Thess 5:23; II Thess 3:16; Heb 13:20-21).

- C. From Eden's ... *Get out!* ... to Heaven's ... *Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.* Glory!
- D. We do not barely get into heaven ... but an abundant entrance is ministered (II Pet 1:11).
- E. It is the difference between the rich man in hell and Lazarus in heaven (Luke 16:20-25).
- F. Every epistle but James is opened and/or closed with peace (Rom 1:7; Jude 1:2; Re 1:4).
- G. By Him we may have perfect peace that exceeds understanding (Is 26:3-4; Phil 4:6-7).
- H. He is able to fill any believer with all peace by the power of the Holy Ghost (Ro 15:13).

HOW LONG of Peace

- A. He is the prophesied High Priest after the order of Melchisedec (King of Peace) *forever*, which is emphasized to us by our beloved brother (Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6; 6:20; 7:17,21).
- B. His *endless life* saves to the uttermost all coming to God by Him (Heb 7:15-17,23-28).

NEWS of Peace

- A. The gospel – good news of glad tidings – is about peace with God (Rom 10:15; Is 52:7).
- B. God moved Jews to declare peace by Jesus, and He warned because of it (Lu 19:37-44).

RESPONSE of Peace

- A. Those forgiven much should love much, and those forgiven the most should love most.
- B. Jesus' love for Paul constrained him to seem insane for His Savior (II Cor 5:14-17).
- C. Hearing the word of reconciliation should move us to reconcile in mind (II Co 5:18-21).
- D. Israel, God's O.T. church, rejected peace, so He ground them to powder (Lu 19:41-44).

Conclusion:

1. The Lord's Supper before us is a celebration of peace obtained by His *blood and body* (Col 1:18-22).
2. This is a chief way to exalt the cross of Jesus Christ and peace by it (I Cor 2:2; 11:26; Galatians 6:14).
3. Faith gives us peace with God (Ro 5:1) – laying hold of gospel facts – communion is by faith in facts.

For Further Study:

1. Sermon outline, *Facets of Salvation* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/salvation/facets-of-salvation/sermon.php>.
2. Sermon outline, *Prince of Peace* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/prince-of-peace.pdf>.
3. Sermon outline, *Six Things Determined* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/six-things-determined.pdf>.
4. Sermon outline, *Unsearchable Riches of Christ* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/unsearchable-riches.pdf>.
5. Sermon outline, *The Glory of the Cross* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/glory-of-the-cross-2.pdf>. [Extensive index of links].
6. Sermon outline, *He Is Altogether Lovely* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/he-is-altogether-lovely-2.pdf>.
7. Sermon outline, *What Did Jesus Finish?* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/pdf/what-did-jesus-finish.pdf>.
8. Sermon outline, *You Need a Lawyer* ... <http://www.letgodbetruer.com/sermons/christ/you-need-a-lawyer/sermon.php>.