

## Peace on Earth

Did the promised peace come when Jesus was born?

Luke 2.13–14

Based on “How Does the Birth of Jesus Bring Peace on Earth,” By Wes McAdams

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • December 25, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jackson Meyer – Isaiah 11.6–9

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – No Suggestions

### Persuasion:

#### I. Peace on Earth

##### A. Announcement to shepherds in the field

**8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:**

**14 “Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”**

**– Luke 2.8–14**

##### B. The Savior had entered the world.

1. The world needed to know the best news that it had ever heard.
2. The God of heaven started with shepherds out in the field.
  - a) He did not start out with people already in Bethlehem, but
  - b) with people who perhaps best represented the nation of Israel,
    - (1) after all the fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
    - (2) had been shepherds, and
      - (a) so they should be the first to hear
      - (b) the magnificent news

- i) that the culmination of the prophets and the promises
- ii) had started in their day.

C. Picture yourself out there in the fields during the night.

1. All is quiet.
2. You put in a long day.
  - a) Then the night is interrupted,
  - b) an angel of the Lord has appeared
    - (1) with his glory shining all around you.
    - (2) Fear grips your soul.

D. However, the angel reassured them that they had no need to fear.

1. The angel announced
2. that in Bethlehem a Savior (Jesus means Savior),
  - a) who is Christ the Lord,
  - b) had been born.

E. As if the appearance of a glorious angel was not enough,

1. a multitude of the heavenly host appeared to the shepherds.
2. They declared
  - a) glory to God in the Highest, which is heaven, and
  - b) down on earth peace and goodwill for man had arrived.

F. If the birth of Jesus meant peace, why do we still have war?

G. If the birth of Jesus meant peace, why did he himself later say this?

**51 “Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division.”**

**– Luke 12.51**

## **II. The Messiah Did Bring Peace**

A. The prophets said that he would bring peace

1. Peace on earth and
2. peace with God.

B. Isaiah in particular spoke of nations not warring:

**4 He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

**– Isaiah 2.4**

C. Isaiah also said:

**6 “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.  
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.  
9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
As the waters cover the sea.**

**– Isaiah 11.6–9**

1. As brother Wes McAdams says:

**“Of course, this is figurative language, but even figurative language has real meaning.”**

2. Is there anyway in which this happened with Jesus in the world?

D. Listen to Hosea:

**18 In that day I will make a covenant for them  
With the beasts of the field,  
With the birds of the air,  
And with the creeping things of the ground.  
Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth,  
To make them lie down safely.**

– Hosea 2.18

### III. Understand the Biblical Meaning of Peace

A. The Bible is a Book from God.

1. Therefore, we have to understand it as he meant it.
2. Granted, he wrote to us, knowing what we can and cannot understand.

B. So then, if we have a biblical understanding of peace,

1. we will understand why he spoke these words:

**49 “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! 51 Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. 52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. 53 Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”**

– Luke 12.49–53

2. If, as the angels said, that the birth of Jesus meant peace,
  - a) why did Jesus say that he did not come to bring peace?
  - b) Does what he said, contradict the prophets?
3. How are we to think on this matter?

C. In Luke 12, he prepared his followers for persecution.

1. He did not address war or whether we should participate in war.
  2. He wanted, and still wants, his disciples to know
    - a) that the world would hate them, and
    - b) that hatred would sometimes turn violent.
- D. He came to make peace, but
1. not everyone wants peace, and
  2. not everyone wants to pursue peace in the way that he teaches it.

#### **IV. Peace Toward Those Who Please Him**

A. Earlier I read Luke 2.14 from the NKJV.

B. Here is the ASV, and all other major translations are similar:

**“And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.”**

1. Evil is here and will be until the end.
2. Therefore, the people of God will suffer from time to time.
  - a) However, reading the rest of the Scriptures
  - b) shows that God has peace
    - (1) with those who obey him and
    - (2) there is peace among those who obey him.
3. As Paul wrote to the Romans, showing that we have peace with God:

**1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...**

**– Romans 5.1**

C. As Paul wrote to the Ephesians that we have peace in the church:

**14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to**

**create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.**

**– Ephesians 2.14–16**

1. When I have peace with God,
  - a) I seek peace with others.
  - b) I want peace with others.
  - c) I especially want peace with my fellow-believers.
2. We do what we can to have peace:
  - a) We forgive one another
  - b) We love one another
  - c) We bless those who persecute us
  - d) We do what is honorable in the sight of others
  - e) We do not speak evil of others
  - f) We practice the Golden Rule
  - g) We avoid creating conflict

D. We have to live in the fulfillment of prophecy, such as Isaiah 2.4.

**Exhortation:**

**I. God's solution is to make peace:**

**18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for them that make peace.**

**– James 3.18**

**II. Peter also taught that we seek peace:**

**8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For**

**“He who would love life  
And see good days,  
Let him refrain his tongue from evil,  
And his lips from speaking deceit.  
11 Let him turn away from evil and do good;  
Let him seek peace and pursue it.  
12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,  
And His ears are open to their prayers;  
But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”**

**– 1 Peter 3.8–12**

### **III. However, the peace of Christ is not what the world thinks.**

- A. Do not let the world’s ideas get into your head.
- B. Our Creator knows the way of peace:

**27 “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.”**

**– John 14.27**

1. The balks at what the Scriptures propose for peace.
2. Since the first century millions have found the peace that Jesus brought.
  - a) Therefore, their hearts are not troubled, and
  - b) they do not fear,
    - (1) knowing that they have peace with God, and
    - (2) that they have peace with people from all over the world,
      - (a) who also embrace that the heavenly host
      - (b) announced came with the birth of Jesus.
3. Yet, think again on what I read to you earlier from Luke 12.
  - a) There is division when one person follows Christ, but

b) the other person does not follow Christ.

#### **IV. The cannot fathom how**

A. meekness,

B. humility,

C. love, and

1. things of that nature can bring peace, but they do.
2. Just imagine all relationships following what Paul taught the Colossians:

**12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.**

**– Colossians 3.12–14**

a) Do you think those things will

b) help or hurt damaged relationships?

#### **V. You may think that you cannot do those things.**

A. However, you can with the help of God.

B. This is what Jesus is all about.

1. Do not trust your feelings or your gut, but
2. trust his teachings,
  - a) doing them and
  - b) seeing how they bring you peace.

#### **VI. God wants peace with you.**

A. Are you ready today to make peace with him?

B. He waits, but I do know how long he will wait nor when you shall die.