

Advent Peace

Luke 2:8 (NIV) “And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.”

Luke 2:9-10 (NIV) “An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid (fear not). I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.’”

Luke 2:11 (NIV) “Today in the town of David (Bethlehem) a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:12 (NIV) “This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Luke 2:13-14 (NIV) “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’”

Luke 2:15 (NIV) “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’”

Luke 2:16 (NIV) “So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.”

Luke 2:17-18 (NIV) “When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

Luke 2:19-20 (NIV) “But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

A SELF EVALUATION TO HELP YOU EXPERIENCE MORE PEACE:

Luke 2:14_b (NIV) “... on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

1. Are you focused on the good news or the bad news?

*“Do not be afraid.
I bring you good news (evangelion)
of great (mega) joy ...”*

2. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior?

Luke 2:11_b (NIV) “... a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

3. Are you choosing to praise and worship the Lord?

Luke 2:13_b-14_a (NIV) “... the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven . . .’”

Our worship joins the angels of heaven.

Nehemiah 9:6_b (NIV) “. . . the multitudes of heaven worship you.”

4. Do you need to make peace with someone?

Luke 2:14_b (NIV) “... and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Peace with God.

Luke 2:11 (NIV) “Today in the town of David (Bethlehem) a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Peace with our circumstances.

John 14:27 (NIV) “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Peace with people.

Ephesians 2:14 (NIV) “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ...”

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV) “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

5. What's God doing in your life that you are excited about?

Luke 2:17-18 (NIV) “... they spread the word ...¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed ...”

Luke 2:20_a (NIV) “The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...”

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”