



## Peace on Earth – Really?

Advent 2022 – Celebrating the Prince of Peace



## Advent

“Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.” ~ *Wikipedia*



# **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*“O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.”*



## **Advent**

- **November 27 – December 24**
- **Themes of Advent**
  - **Hope/Faith**
  - **Peace**
  - **Love**
  - **Joy**



## Hope and Faith

- Hope – “a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.”
- Faith – “complete trust or confidence in someone or something.”
- Our hope is imbued with the moral certainty of who God is, what He has done, and what He says He will do
  - Romans 4:18
  - Hebrews 11:1



**The LORD Almighty has sworn,  
“Surely, as I have planned, so it will  
be, and as I have purposed, so it will  
happen.”**

*~ Isaiah 14:24*



## Peace – The World's Definitions

- Freedom from war and violence, especially when people live and work together happily without disagreements.
- The state of not being interrupted or annoyed by worry, problems, noise, or unwanted actions.
- What do these two definitions of peace have in common?
  - The absence of something undesirable
  - Dependent on circumstances



## Peace – The Bible’s Definition

- The Bible does speak to the dictionary definition of peace – the cessation of hostilities or strife, but it goes much deeper
- The Hebrew word “*Shalom*” refers to inner completeness and tranquility
  - Derived from the root word “*Shalam*” – described making things right after a loss or injury; to make things whole again
- The Greek word “*Eirene*” is similar in that it portrays wholeness, human flourishing





## Peace in the Scriptures

- The absence of war or chaos (Acts 9:31)
- A right relationship with God (Romans 5:1)
- Good relationship among people (Romans 12:18)
- A Christian virtue (Galatians 5:22-23)
- A greeting (Luke 10:5)



## The Source of Peace

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, *Prince of Peace***. Of the greatness of his government and *peace* there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

~ Isaiah 9:6-7



## Peace for All?

- “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’” ~ Matthew 10:34-36
  - The Greek word for “sword” in this passage, “machaira” describes a large fisherman’s knife used to separate different parts of a cut of meat



## Peace for All?

- “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” ~ Luke 2:14
- 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. ~ John 14:27
- And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ~ Philippians 4:7



## Permanent Peace is Coming

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ~ Revelation 21:1-5



## Christ Has Come!

**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” ~ Luke 19:10**

**“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”**

***~ John 10:10***

**“...[T]he reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.”**

***~ John 18:37***



## **Christ is Returning!**

- **Jesus spoke often of His return**
  - **Matthew 24:30-31**
- **The angels at His Ascension promised His return**
  - **Acts 1:10-11**
- **Jesus said no one knows when He will return**
  - **Matthew 24:36, 42**
- **He will return when our task is done**
  - **Matthew 24:14**



**He who testifies to these  
things says, “Yes, I am  
coming soon.”**

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*~ Revelation 22:20*