

9 December

Advent 2018



¹⁸ I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, ¹⁹ creating the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the Lord, "and I will heal him."

— Isaiah 57:18-19

—THE BIBLICAL THEMES OF ADVENT—

“PEACE: GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED”

Introduction: A season of peace?

1. During this time of year, many are looking for relief from the stress associated with the season.

⇒ While this can be a selfish desire, it is ultimately rooted in the good, God-given desire for human _____.

2. Many others are looking for peace within their family relationships.

⇒ Again, this can be selfish, but God designed the family as the primary relational _____ of human society.

Key Point: *Biblically speaking, true peace is found only in the _____ which God provides for man that restores the soul to its proper state of being rightly related to its Creator.*

The Biblical Terminology of Peace

In the OT: שָׁלוֹם (shā·lōm') — A state of well-being and the related satisfaction that accompanies it. Welfare, health, prosperity; peace, safety, completeness. Peace or friendship with God (especially in a covenant relationship).

- *Shalom* can be understood in terms of a _____ or _____.

Ecc. 3:8b—...a time for war, and a time for *peace*.

Judges 19:20—And the old man said, “*Peace* be to you; I will care for all your wants. Only, do not spend the night in the square.”

Psa. 38:3—There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no *health* in my bones because of my sin.

- *Shalom* can be understood in terms of a _____.

Josh. 9:15a—And Joshua made *peace* with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live...

Isa. 54:10—For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of *peace* shall not be removed,” says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

- *Shalom* is the _____ of Yahweh to His people.

Lev. 26:6a—I will give *peace* in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid.

Psa. 85:8-9—⁸ Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak *peace* to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. ⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

- *Shalom* is the ultimate _____ of the salvation anticipated in the OT.

Ezek. 37:26-27—²⁶ I will make a covenant of *peace* with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore. ²⁷ My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Micah 5:5a—And he (Messiah) shall be their *peace*.

Key Point: Biblical peace is the _____ of being rightly related to God

In the NT: εἰρήνη (eirēnē) — Peace (literally or figuratively); by implication, prosperity: peace, quietness, rest, set at one again.

- *Eirene* is a feeling or sense of peace and rest related to the _____ or _____ state of all things

1 Cor. 14:33a—For God is not a God of confusion but of *peace*...

Rom. 15:13a—May the God of hope fill you with all joy and *peace* in believing...

- *Eirene* is the state of being _____ to God.

Rom. 5:1—Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Eph. 2:16-17—¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached *peace* to you who were far off and *peace* to those who were near.

- *Eirene* describes the _____ of the salvation which Jesus has secured for us.

Luke 1:79—to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of *peace*.”

Heb. 12:14—Strive for *peace* with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Gal. 1:3—Grace to you and *peace* from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

Heb. 13:20—Now may the God of *peace* who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

Key Point: Biblical peace is both the state of being reconciled to God but also the experience of the _____ of God in the salvation that He has accomplished for us.

Glory to the Newborn King

Luke 2:1-7 offers a summary of the historical setting into which Jesus Christ was born. The reference to Caesar Augustus is intended to highlight for us that these events occurred at the beginning of the *Pax Romana* (the Peace of Rome). The message of the angels given to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem, however, concerned a much greater peace.

The Shepherds & the Angels

Luke 2:8-14—⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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 among those with whom he is pleased!”

Observations:

1. There is great _____ in this message being delivered to a group of literal shepherds (Ezek. 34:1-16).
2. The message of the angels echoes the OT promise that good news would be proclaimed to God’s people and that He would _____ them with His presence (Isa. 40:1-11).
3. The message centered on the coming of the _____, whose rule would bring about the salvation that the people had longed for (Ezek. 34:22-26).
4. The song of the angels is not a wish, but is instead a _____ that the promised salvation has now come through the birth of Messiah (Isa. 9:6-7).

Key Point: The message of Messiah’s birth was that the promised _____ of God had come down to His people!

Hearing the Words of Peace this Christmas

Mark 4:39—And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “*Peace!* Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

- As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been granted peace _____ God and peace _____ God.

How do we experience this peace?

1. We hear His voice through His _____.

Col. 3:15-16—¹⁵ And let the *peace* of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

2. We commune with Him in _____.

Phil. 4:6-7—⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Questions for Reflection:

1. Do I have a consistent time and place where I allow God to proclaim His peace to me through His Word?
2. In what practical ways can I remind myself of the peace of God in the midst of the busyness of the Christmas season?