Christmas Peace

Christ was Born to Give us Peace
Luke 2:14

During an ordinary night in Bethlehem, an extraordinary reality was breaking through: Christ was born, and His arrival was the dawn of peace for a unpeaceful world.

Luke 2:1-14 was written when the world was in turmoil under Roman rule, a time characterized by political unrest and spiritual hunger. It had been hundreds of years since God's prophets had been recorded. It was a time of spiritual silence. The prophets hundreds of year prior to this event had promised the coming of the Messiah. On Christmas, He came to earth, Immanual God with us! Yet, into this noisy, troubled environment, the angels proclaimed a simple, profound truth: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors" (Luke 2:14)

This was not merely a wish for peace, but a declaration of a new reality made possible through the Incarnation of God. Who will have peace? According to Luke 2:14 "...those with whom he is pleased!" According to Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please Him." So those with faith in Christ are those who please God. They are and will be the eternal respondents of peace. Let's dive into peace!

I. The <u>Problem</u> with Man-Made Peace (Isaiah 59:8)

Humanity constantly strives for peace—through treaties, power balances, and economic stability. Yet, as history shows, this peace is fragile and temporary. The Prophet Isaiah understood this deeply, describing a world where "the way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths" (Isaiah 59:8). Our attempts at achieving true peace fail because they address the symptoms, not the root cause: the separation between humanity and a holy God that our sin produces. Jesus came to solve that problem. Jesus came to give us eternal peace as the sacrifice for our sins, becoming your Savior through faith in Him!

II. The <u>Prince</u> of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)

The peace the angels announced is a divine gift, not a human achievement. Long ago, the prophet Isaiah foretold this coming King, declaring that one of his names would be "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus' birth was the physical manifestation of God stepping into our chaos to establish peace. The Hebrew word for peace is Shalom, it is more than just the absence of conflict; it is wholeness, harmony, security, and the thriving of every aspect of our lives because of Christ. It is the peace that realigns our lives with the Creator's original design.

III. The Peace Christ Purchased (Colossians 1:20)

The word peace is mentioned five times in the New Testament in connection with Jesus Christ! The manger was the beginning, but the cross was the completion of this peace mission. Christ came to reconcile the world to God. The Apostle Paul shares this in Colossians: "for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:19-20).

The peace we celebrate at Christmas was purchased at the highest possible price. The infant in the manger grew up to be the bridge between us as sinners and a Holy God!

IV. The Profound Peace Christ Produces (John 14:27)

The ultimate gift of Christmas is the invitation to receive this peace personally. Jesus, nearing the end of his earthly ministry, gave his followers this promise: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

The world offers a temporary ceasefire; Christ offers an enduring calm in the midst of life's storms. Christ offers eternal peace because of the manger, the death He had on the cross, and the resurrection.

The message of Luke 2:1-14 is not merely a sweet story for a silent night. It is a radical announcement that the sovereign Lord has intervened in history. The baby in the manger, the Lord Christ, was born precisely to bring you *shalom*—wholeness with God, with others, and within yourself. This is peace!

May we, like the shepherds, go and tell others about this wonderful news and experience the profound reality of "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" guarding our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" as stated in (Philippians 4:7).