

Series: Advent Peace

Sunday, December 07.

1. PEACE P

(Isaiah 9:6-7; see also Colossians 3:15; Revelation 21:3-4; Isaiah 11:6-10)

- God's promise of peace to the exiles—whose city and temple lay in ruins—was not through circumstances or human strength, but through a child, the Prince of Peace.
- While we won't have world peace in this lifetime, we can have peace in our souls now: "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts". To have the internal peace promised by the Prince of Peace, we must let Him rule and reign in our lives, surrendering our thoughts and lives to Him moment by moment.
- Following Christ's second Advent, there will be no more death or pain (Revelation 21:4). We see that predators and prey will dwell together in harmony, and the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:6-9).
- What is competing with Christ's rule in your heart right now, preventing you from experiencing His peace?

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2. PEACE P

(Isaiah 52:13-14; 53:5; see also John 3:14-15; 12:32; Romans 4:25-5:1)

- Jesus left heaven's glory to be "lifted up" on the cross—beaten, bloodied, and disfigured beyond recognition. He did it for YOU—to purchase your peace. Through His death and resurrection, we have peace with God. Rest in the finished work of Christ, knowing that true peace with God has been purchased at the highest price.
- How does knowing that Christ was pierced and crushed specifically for YOUR transgressions deepen your experience of peace with God?

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Turn page over for #3

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(Isaiah 52:7; see also Luke 2:11-14; Romans 10:8-15)

- Imagine messengers running over the mountains proclaiming to the exiles: "peace," "salvation," and "Your God reigns!" Angels later proclaimed from the sky, "peace on earth." Now we are sent as messengers. Paul asks, "how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? and then quoting Isaiah, says, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"
- You have been sent as a messenger of God's good news. Look for opportunities this week to share the hope and peace you have in Christ with someone who needs to hear it. Who in your life needs to hear the good news of peace with God, and how might you share it with them this week?

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Application For This Week: This Advent season, let the promised, purchased, and proclaimed peace of Christ reshape how you live. Let Christ's peace rule in your heart by surrendering to His kingship moment by moment. When anxiety rises, remember that the Prince of Peace has purchased your peace at the cost of His own life. And when you encounter someone who is weary or searching, be bold to proclaim that in Christ, peace with God is available to all who believe.

Prayer: *"Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise of peace through the Prince of Peace born in Bethlehem. Thank You that Jesus left heaven's glory and purchased our peace through His suffering on the cross, reconciling us to You. Help us to let Christ's peace rule in our hearts, surrendering everything to His lordship. Give us courage and opportunity to proclaim this good news to others, that they too might know the peace that surpasses all understanding. We long for that day when You return and peace will fill the whole earth. Maranatha—come, Lord Jesus! In Your name, Amen."*

Verse To Meditate On This Week:

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"
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