

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN.” - LUKE 2:14.

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

- At the birth of our Saviour Jesus, the heavenly host proclaimed to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks during the night, the following message of praise to God for the birth of the Messiah. And they also proclaimed a message that would bring hope and peace to those people who would accept of the gracious mercy and salvation that the Messiah was to accomplish by his earthly life and mission.
“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:13 & 14.)

“GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST”: -

- The heavenly host were praising God in our theme text from Luke’s gospel. They were praising God for providing a Saviour to this lost world.
“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:16 & 17.)

“The Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world” (1 John 4:14).

- When Jesus entered Jerusalem at the time of his triumphant entry a few days before he was crucified, the multitudes proclaimed the following acclamation of praise to him, which echoes the angel’s praising the Lord at the birth of Jesus.
“Blessed [be] the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.” (Luke 19:38.)
- The angel that proclaims the “*everlasting gospel*” to the world in the Book of Revelation, proclaims the following message, “*Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*” (Revelation 14:6 & 7.)
- The apostles have recorded in the New Testament Scriptures the simple truth that the God of heaven is worthy to receive glory and honour for ever.
“For of him, and through him, and to him, [are] all things: to whom [be] glory for ever. Amen.” (Romans 11:36.)

“To God only wise, [be] glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.” (Romans 16:27.)

“Now unto God and our Father [be] glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Philippians 4:20.)

“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle [you]. To him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:10 & 11.)

“To the only wise God our Saviour, [be] glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen.” (Jude 25.)

“AND ON EARTH PEACE”:-

- The Bible writers have clearly revealed God as being “the God of peace”.
“Now the God of peace [be] with you all. Amen.” (Romans 15:33.)

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.” (Romans 16:20.)

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23.)

- The Lord is the One who gives us peace.
“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.” (Numbers 6:24 - 26.)

“To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called [to be] saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 1:7.)

- The gospel prophet Isaiah prophesied that one of the names Christ is to be called is “the Prince of Peace”.
“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of [his] government and peace [there shall be] no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” (Isaiah 9:6 & 7.)

- Christ has promised to give his followers peace in this troubled world.
“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27.)

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33.)

- Peace is to be found through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In fact, it is called “the gospel of peace”.
“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Isaiah 52:7.)

"The word which [God] sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)" (Acts 10:36.)

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." (Ephesians 6:15.)

- The wounds that Christ suffered for us upon the cross were for our peace. Through Jesus' death upon the cross, he brought the Jew and Gentile together into one body, thus making peace.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4 & 5.)

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us]; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, [even] the law of commandments [contained] in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, [so] making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh." (Ephesians 2:13 - 17.)

- We find peace through the blood of Christ's cross.

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, [I say], whether [they be] things in earth, or things in heaven." (Colossians 1:20.)

FORGIVENESS BRINGS PEACE WITH GOD: -

- The woman who had been a grievous sinner, whose sins Jesus forgave, Jesus assured her to go away in peace.

"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." (Luke 7:47 - 50.)

- When we experience justification by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1.)

- Believing in Christ will bring joy and peace.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost." (Romans 15:13.)

FINDING PEACE WITH GOD BY WALKING IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS LAW: -

- *"There is] no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked."* (Isaiah 48:22.)

"[There is] no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." (Isaiah 57:21.)

The Psalmist defines the wicked as those who have forsaken God's Law, and because the wicked have forsaken God's Law, they have no peace.

"Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law." (Psalms 119:53.)

The prophet Isaiah reinforces this teaching in the following passage. If rebellious Israel had hearkened to God's Commandments, then their peace would have been like the tranquillity of a river.

"Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I [am] the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way [that] thou shouldest go. O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea." (Isaiah 48:17 & 18.)

Whereas, the contrast is equally true, that those who love God's Law have great peace with their Maker.

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them." (Psalms 119:165.)

Those who are of the carnal mindset are not able to be subject to or obedient to the Law of God, and hence they are not able to find peace with their Maker. Death is all that awaits them. Whereas those who are of the mindset of the Spirit will have the righteousness of God's Law fulfilled in their lives, and will find peace and life.

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Because the carnal mind [is] enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (Romans 8:3 - 8.)

- On the Day of Judgment, those who have done good will find eternal life and peace.
"Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ... But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:" (Romans 2:6, 7 & 10.)

"GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN": -

- God's gracious and saving intervention through Christ, has been manifested towards all mankind, as has been plainly recorded by the pens of the apostles John and Paul. In some way the grace of God does indeed strive with the hearts of all humanity at some point in their lives. This is the implication that can be drawn from the following passages. God has indeed manifested his good will towards all mankind through the gospel of Jesus Christ!

"[That] was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John 1:9.)

"Therefore as by the offence of one [judgment came] upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [the free gift came] upon all men unto justification of life." (Romans 5:18.)

"For this [is] good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3 & 4.)

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." (1 Timothy 4:10.)

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (Titus 2:11).

WHY THEN IS THERE NO PEACE ON THE EARTH AS PROCLAIMED BY THE HEAVENLY HOST?

- The following statements from the Scriptures and the pen of the Testimony of Jesus give us the reason **WHY** this world is full of strife and bloodshed, **WHY** there is so little peace in this world, when the message heralded by the heavenly host at the birth of Christ, promised peace and good will upon the earth.

The apostle Paul has highlighted the truth that Satan who is *"the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."* (2 Corinthians 4:4.)

He has also recorded the following simple truth that helps answer this question, *"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* (2 Timothy 3:12.)

LET US MAKE KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRAISE OF THE MOST HIGH GOD OUR OWN: -

"And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom [is] from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth [are] reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and [among] the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" - Daniel 4:34 & 35.