

The Peace of Christmas

PEACE

Isa 9:6-7

Micah 5:5

Luke 2:14

Eph 2:14a, 17

1) International Peace – v. 68-75

Isa 2:2-4

Isa 11:1-10

Dan 2:44

Dan 7:13-14

Revelation 19:11-21

2) Inter-Spiritual Peace (Personal Peace) – v. 76-77

Rom 3:9-20

Romans 8:7-8 – the natural mind is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

1 Peter 2:24, 3:18

Ezek 36:25-27

John 6:37,40 – All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.

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

3) Interpersonal Peace – v. 78-79

1 Peter 3:10-11- The one who desires life, to love and see good days, must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit. He must turn away from evil and do good; He must seek peace and pursue it.

Romans 12:18 – If possible, so far as it depends upon you, be at peace with all men.

Praxis

1. Besides Peace, what other words/ideas do you associate with Christmas celebrations? Why?
2. Zacharias seems to focus on the Jewish nation's deliverance from their enemies (our, us, we) in Luke 1:68-75... How might these texts expand the idea of "His people" (Isa 2:1-4, 11:1-10, 19:21-25, 49:6)?
3. Why is God forgiving our sins not enough to bring us into true Peace with Himself? What else is necessary? How does He do this?
4. How might we emulate Jesus in establishing peace with others? What practical steps ought we to take when we both have wronged each other? What about when you know of no wrongs you have done?