

December 5, 2021 ADVENT WEEK 2

The Angel Candle of Peace

Last week we began our Advent Season with the Advent Candle of the Prophets Hope. We talked about the concepts of Anticipation, Preparation & Expectation.

Today is the Angel Candle of Peace

Let's put together these first two points. Advent is a time of Anticipation or a coming Messiah, that **Anticipation** leads us to genuine heartfelt **Preparation**. The key point of preparation is the message of John the Baptist "**Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand**" (**Matt. 2:2**). It also includes the idea of fruit bearing. This leads us to the point of **Expectation** – where we wait with faithful hope that Immanuel will bring us hope and peace.

It is only after we have repented that we can truly experience PEACE. For the key point is that **PEACE IS A PERSON – JESUS CHRIST THE PRINCE OF PEACE!**

The Meaning of Peace. In English, the word "peace" conjures up a passive picture, one showing an absence of civil disturbance or hostilities, or a personality free from internal and external strife. The biblical concept of peace is larger than that and rests heavily on the Hebrew word **Shalom**, which means "to be complete/whole" or "to be sound" or "to live well." **Four categories:**

- (1) shalom as wholeness of life or body (i.e., health);
- (2) shalom as right relationship or harmony between two parties or people, often established by a covenant ;
- (3) shalom as prosperity, success, or fulfillment ; and

(4) shalom as victory over one's enemies or absence of war. Shalom was used in both greetings and farewells.

It was meant to act as a blessing on the one to whom it was spoken: " In the New Testament, the Greek word **eirene** is the word most often translated by the word "peace."

The Hebrew word **shalom** has greatly influenced the New Testament's use of eirene , and they are basically the same.

PEACE IS NOT AVOIDANCE OR APPEASEMENT,
IT IS NOT JUST THE ABSENCE OF STRIFE OR
TROUBLE...
PEACE IS A RESULT THE FRUIT OF RIGHT
RELATIONSHIP.

- With God, which produces a right relationship
- Within oneself, and makes it possible to choose to be
- With people around us.

(Some points are taken from SermonCentral.com series "Cast of Christmas". Used by permission

➤ **THE PROMISE OF PEACE**

Isaiah 9:6...For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, PRINCE OF PEACE.

Isaiah 26:3...You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

➤ **THE PROCLAMATION OF PEACE**

Luke 2:11-14... For unto you is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” 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, goodwill toward men!”

“One angel explained this good news of great joy for all people: that the Messiah had been born in Bethlehem. It’s important to understand that the peace the angels proclaimed was not a proclamation of world peace or a declaration of the end of strife and war. It was not a direct announcement that we can now get along with our neighbors. It’s actually much bigger and much more important than any of that.

Through Jesus, the barrier of sin has been removed. Now we have relationship and peace with God! The peace on earth Jesus brings is foremost the peace that we can have with God through Christ. This peace comes from faith in Jesus and the forgiveness that follows. We see an example of this in the woman in Luke 7 who “lived a sinful life” (verse 37). She washed Jesus’s feet with her tears and her hair. In verse 48 Jesus tells her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Then in verse 50, Jesus concludes with, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Because of the forgiveness of sins, we have peace with God. No wonder the angels proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest!” (SermonCentral. Cast of Christmas Pt 2)

➤ **THE PROCUREMENT OF PEACE**

Isaiah 53:5... But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Ephesians 2:14-18... For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

John 14:27... Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

➤ **THE PRACTICE OF PEACE**

Philippians 4:9... Whatever you have learned or received or heard from Me, or seen in Me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Matthew 5:9... Jesus tells us, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Romans 12:14-18... ¹⁴*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.* ¹⁵*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* ¹⁶*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.* ¹⁷*Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* ¹⁸*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

PEOPLE WHO PRACTICE PEACE

1. **Choose To Value People, Not To Judge & Criticize**

¹⁴*Bless those who persecute you;
bless and do not curse them*

2. **Empathize & Sympathize With Others** (vs 15) (Walk a mile in their shoes)

¹⁵*Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.*

3. **Seek to Live in Harmony With Others** – (vs. 16a) (Evaluate your convictions and see if they are Biblical or just personal opinion)

¹⁶*Live in harmony with one another.*

4. **Don't Let Pride Rule Them** (vs. 16) (Do Not Be a 'Respecter of Persons')

*Do not be haughty but associate with the lowly.
Never be conceited.*

5. **Are Not Be Vindictive or Judgmental** (vs. 17) (Attack the problem not the person)

¹⁷*Repay no one evil for evil but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.*

6. **Choose Peace As A Lifestyle Decision** (vs 18) (Seek reconciliation, not just resolution)

¹⁸*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

“Peacemaking restores relationship. It brings harmony. It goes beyond just avoiding and separating conflict and brings restoration, relationship, and unity. Jesus made lasting and restorative peace between us and God.

Aren't you glad the angels didn't proclaim,

“And on earth tolerance to those whom He decided to endure”?

Aren't you glad the angels didn't proclaim,

“And on earth God puts up with those on whom His favor rests”?

Instead, He brought a true peace with God”. (SermonCentral. Cast of Christmas Pt 2)

The Angels Message of Peace is more than just a cessation of conflict or problems.

It is a Promise, that was Proclaimed at the birth of Christ, which is Procured through a relationship with Christ, which then is to be Practiced in the life of every believer.

Peace is a Person, Whose Presence in our lives brings Power and Purpose

INVITATION