

The Gospel of Peace

(Luke 2:8–14; Isaiah 9:2–7; 65:17–25; Hebrews 2:5–15)

Christmas is a season of blessing, a time when we express love and give gifts to one another. Choosing a gift that is beautiful, practical, and truly meaningful for our family and friends is often not easy. Many of us struggle with this because each person's needs are unique. Yet, there is one gift that fits every one of us perfectly. It is the gift God Himself wants to give to each of us, that is His Peace.

Peace is something we all need because we live in the midst of brokenness. All around us, we see natural disasters, human tragedies, and even violence and war. Even in homes that should be filled with love, conflicts arise, and people who care for each other still cause hurt.

These conditions represent only the external symptoms of brokenness; at the core lies the deeper, inner brokenness of the human soul. Some people never feel secure—they worry all the time and even feel anxious. Some don't see their own value, so they work nonstop trying to prove themselves with achievements or money. And some just give up and hide inside their own little world.

Psychologists observe that the increasing dependence on phones and social media reveals the deeper wounds of the modern soul – weak self-esteem, fear of being alone, fear of missing out, and avoiding their own issues. Some may say, "I'm not broken—my life is fine." But a counselor encourages us to ask ourselves two honest questions: "What can you not forgive yourself for?" and "What is the fear that grips you the most?"

We often say, "Life is beautiful." And it is. But inside, many still feel something missing—like a lovely puzzle with a few pieces gone, leaving a faint but undeniable sense of lack. This brokenness or missing something is what the Bible calls "sin." In both Hebrew and Greek, the root of the word for sin is "to miss", that is, to fall short of the life we were meant to have, to have something missing from God's original plan. And the opposite of that brokenness is a life that is in wholeness and harmony, physically, emotionally, spiritually, and relationally. That's what is called "peace" in the Bible.

Christmas brings us the Gospel of Peace. Today, as we read several passages of Scripture, we're going to reflect on three important things: the Source of Peace, the Nature of Peace, and the Way to Peace.

1. The Source of Peace

Peace comes from God. God wants to save us from sin and brokenness. He wants to give us peace. Luke 2:8–12 (NASB) says:

⁸In the same region, there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood near them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰And so the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

To understand this passage, we need to remember the background. Israel—the people God chose to be the *archetype* of His salvation plan—kept rebelling against Him, and their sin led them into brokenness and pain. But God remained faithful. He didn't give up on His promise. So He sent angels to announce the good news to the priest Zechariah, and to the Virgin Mary.

This passage records the angel's announcement to the shepherds—good news of great joy for all people. At its center is the proclamation that the anticipated Savior, the One who would deliver God's people from sin and brokenness, has arrived. This Savior is the Christ, the Lord God Himself. Let us look at a few key words—Savior, Christ, the baby, and the Lord God. And we see what they teach us about the *Source of Peace*.

1) the "Savior" and "Christ". When Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord God, sin and brokenness entered the world. And every one of us suffers under that brokenness. God's salvation is to bring His

people back to Himself and to restore the wholeness of their lives—that is the true meaning of peace. In the times of the Old Testament, God sent His servants, such as Moses, the judges, and later King David, to deliver His people when they fell into sin and brokenness. Yet Israel repeatedly rebelled, continually falling into greater brokenness and crying out for a Savior.

During the exile and the return, the hope of a Savior started to focus on the promised Son of David—the Messiah, the Anointed One. In Hebrew, it's called *Messiah*. The New Testament Greek translates it as Christ. This Savior will bring about the final salvation to God's people.

2) the "Baby" and "the LORD". Isaiah 9:2–7 prophesied about this Savior and declared:

²*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness,
a light has dawned.*

⁶*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Scripture says that this Savior, the Christ, is actually the Lord Himself. He's the Prince of Peace. When He steps into our lives and takes charge, peace comes with Him. He is the Source of Peace.

When we turn away from the true source of peace and try to fix our brokenness by ourselves, things only get worse. That's why Jeremiah 2:12-13 cries out to the wayward Israelites:

¹²*"Be appalled at this, you heavens,
and shudder with great horror,"
declares the Lord.*

¹³*"My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water."*

Peace and true satisfaction can only be found in Christ. But attending church events is not the same as abiding in Christ. To enter His peace, we must trust in His saving work and cling to Him. Chrissy Cymbala, a girl from New York, grew up in a pastor's home. She was always in church, yet church for her was just activities. As she reached high school, she felt deeply that something was missing in life. She thought that she lacked freedom, happiness, and excitement. Church activities could not give her the peace her heart craved. So she abandoned her faith and her family, determined to chase excitement and happiness. She ran after pleasure, entered destructive relationships, and eventually became pregnant. What she believed would fill her emptiness instead drove her into deeper darkness. Despair swallowed her, and fear kept her from returning home. Cut off from the source of peace, her life spiraled into chaos.

Jesus Christ is the Source of Peace. If we want peace, we must turn to Him. So what is this peace like?

2. The Nature of Peace

Luke 2:13-14 says:

¹³*And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army of angels
praising God and saying,*

¹⁴*"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased."*

This is a song of praise, but it is also a declaration that God's final salvation has arrived, a proclamation

that His peace will come to His people, those who come to faith in His salvation, and have been redeemed and set free from their sin and brokenness.

The “peace” mentioned in this passage comes from the Old Testament context. The Hebrew word *shalom* (שָׁלוֹם) means far more than “safety” or “the absence of conflict or war.” It speaks of wholeness, completeness, well-being, and relational harmony, especially the covenant harmony between God and His people. This is the peace God gives His people through salvation in Jesus. So what does this peace actually look like? Isaiah 65 shows what happens when God consummates His salvation for His people. Here’s what verses 17–25 say:

¹⁷*“See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.
¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

²³They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the Lord,
they and their descendants with them
²⁴Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.
²⁵The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent’s food.
They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,”
says the Lord.*

What a beautiful picture this is! God renews all things and prepares a dwelling place for His people. Everything becomes whole and harmonious—that is true peace. Relationships between people, relationship with God, and even our relationship with creation are all restored in perfect harmony – no more brokenness, no more scarcity, no more struggle for survival.

This is what peace from God looks like. This peace is not only something we will experience fully when Christ returns. It is a peace that every child of God can taste even TODAY. Many believers share the same testimony: they experienced this peace when coming to Christ. So the next question is: How do we enter into this beautiful peace?

3. The Way to Peace

Hebrews 2:5 talks about “the world to come,” the peaceful world that will appear once salvation is fully accomplished. God will restore redeemed humanity to its glorious calling as His agent ruler over creation. And in verses 8–15 says that Christ, by sacrificing Himself, will deliver His people out of the bondage of sin and brokenness and lead them into glorious peace.

⁵*the world to come, about which we are speaking...⁸In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present, we do not see everything subject to them.
⁹But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

¹⁴*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—
¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

Death is the ultimate form of brokenness. Because of sin, people live in fear of death. And the devil uses that fear to push them into even more destructive choices. On our own, we cannot escape this bondage. But Jesus has defeated the devil. Everyone in His salvation is set free. We are free to live a whole and peaceful life.

The Hebrew word for “peace” is shalom (שלום). In its ancient pictographic form, each letter carried a symbolic meaning. Read from right to left, the four letters represent: “destroy,” “authority,” “connect,” and “chaos.” Taken together, the idea is this: Peace comes from destroying the authority that binds everything to chaos.

And that is precisely how true peace comes to humanity. Jesus destroyed the dark authority that holds our world in brokenness—and He brings peace to His people.

Chrissy’s story did not end in rebellion and brokenness. The Lord, the Prince of Peace, did not give up on her. One night, Chrissy’s father, together with more than a thousand believers, cried out to God for her salvation. And that very night, the Holy Spirit came upon Chrissy with deep conviction and powerful deliverance. God Himself intervened and turned her heart. The next morning, she returned home, confessed her sins, and repented. She stepped into the peace of Christ. Years later, she married a pastor, and together they planted a church and built a vibrant music ministry. Her brokenness was transformed into wholeness. Her sorrow was turned into praise.

Chrissy’s story reminds us of an important truth: simply attending church is not the same as being saved from sin and brokenness. We must personally come to faith in Jesus—only then are we connected to the Source of Peace and brought into that peace through His salvation. But the good news is this: anyone who comes to Jesus, he or she will be saved by Jesus to the very end.

So, anyone who is hurting or overwhelmed by brokenness can turn to Jesus Christ, the source of peace, and ask Him for His salvation and His peace. Through faith in Jesus’ salvation, every person can enter into God’s peace today.

Summary

Let’s recap what we’ve looked at. In this world, the gift people need most is real peace. Christmas announces the “Gospel of Peace.” First, God is the *Source of Peace*. He is the Prince of Peace who wants to enter your life and give you His peace. Second, the *Nature of Peace* means wholeness, fullness, and harmony. God will renew all creation and bring everything into perfect harmony at Jesus’ second coming. Third, the *Way to Peace* is through Jesus Christ. On the cross, He defeated the devil, the one who holds the brokenness and death. Jesus frees those enslaved by sin and brokenness, so that everyone who believes in Him can live in true freedom and enjoy His peace.

The peace that comes from God is the most precious gift of Christmas. And God desires to give this peace to every one of us. We enter this peace through Christ. And we also share this precious gift with those around us, so that more people may find peace through Jesus. May God bless each of us with His peace in Jesus Christ. Amen!