

The Christmas Message of Peace

Luke 2:8-14 the angelic message to the shepherds

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But 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; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

I. Christmas declares the fulfillment of God's eternal purposes:

Luke 1:30-33 Gabriel announces to Mary that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's covenantal promise of the Messiah.

Luke 1:30-33 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

2 Sam 7:12-13 God promises David that the Messiah would come through his seed.

12 " When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 " He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

II. The Messianic prophesy of Isaiah:

Isa 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom; to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

A. For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

1 John 4:10-14 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

B. And the government will rest on His shoulders;

Isa 22:22-23 "Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open. I will drive him like a peg in a firm place, and he will become a throne of glory to his father's house.

Ps 2:6-12 "But as for Me, I have installed My King upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'" Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Ps 110:1-4 The LORD says to my Lord; "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." The Lord will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies." Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; in holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

Jer 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. "In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The Lord our righteousness.'

Zech 6:12-13 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord. "Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the LORD, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.'"

Zech 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off, and He will speak peace to the nations; and His dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Matt 11:27 "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him."

Matt 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

1 Cor 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

Eph 1:20-23 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

C. His name:

1. There are 4 occasions in the Old Testament where the question, "What is Your name;" is asked about God:

1) Gen 32:28-31 Jacob, who wrestles with the angel all night:
"Your name will no longer be Jacob," the man told him. "It is now Israel, because you have struggled with both God and men and have won." "What is your name?" Jacob asked him. "Why do you ask?" the man replied. Then he blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel--"face of God"--for he said, "I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been spared." The sun rose as he left Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip. (NLT)

2) Judg 13:18 the question of Manoah (the father of Samson):
But the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

3) Ex 3:13-14 The question of Moses at the burning bush:
Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name? What shall I say to them?'" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

4) Prov 30:4 The question of Agur:
Who but God goes up to heaven and comes back down? Who holds the wind in his fists? Who wraps up the oceans in his cloak? Who has created the whole wide world? What is his name--and his son's name? Tell me if you know! (NLT)

2. Messiah's name shall be called Immanuel:
Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Matt 1:22-23 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

D. Isa 9:6-7 His name will be called:

1. Wonderful

A. The name given to Manoah (the father of Samson):
Judg 13:18 But the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?"

B. Ps 138:2 the Lord exalts His name (Wonderful) by what He does.
I will bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

1 Chron 16:12 Remember His wonderful deeds which He has done, His marvels and the judgments from His mouth,

1 Chron 16:24-25 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

Ps 96:3 Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

Ps 98:1 Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wonderful things, His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.

Matt 21:15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant

2. Counselor:

Job 12:13 With Him are wisdom and might; to Him belong counsel and understanding.

Ps 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Isa 28:29 This also comes from the Lord of hosts, Who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.

Rom 11:33-36 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

Isa 11:2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Eph 1:10-11 ...in Him, also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Zech 6:12-13 "Then say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.'"

3. Mighty God,

John 1:1-3 Jesus is the Word, Creator of all

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 10:30, 37-38 Jesus is one with the Father

30 "I and the Father are one."

37-38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

John 20:27-29 the apostle Thomas worship Jesus as God.

Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

Acts 20:28 God purchased the church His own blood.

28 "Be guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

Col 1:15-20 the deity of Jesus

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Titus 2:12-14 we are anticipating the return of Jesus, our great God and Savior
Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

4. The everlasting Father. (From Easton's Bible Dictionary)

Father - a name applied

(1) to any ancestor (Deut 1:11; 1 Kings 15:11; Matt 3:9; 23:30, etc.);

(2) as a title of respect to a chief, ruler, or elder, etc. (Judg 17:10; 18:19; 1 Sam 10:12; 2 Kings 2:12; Matt 23:9, etc.).

(3) The author or beginner of anything is also so called; e.g., Jabal and Jubal (Gen 4:20,21; comp. Job 38:28).

Applied to God (Ex 4:22; Deut 32:6; 2 Sam 7:14; Ps 89:27,28, etc.).

(1.) As denoting his covenant relation to the Jews (Jer 31:9; Isa 63:16; 64:8; John 8:41, etc.).

(2.) Believers are called God's "sons" (John 1:12; Rom 8:16; Matt 6:4,8,15,18; 10:20,29).

They also call him "Father" (Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:3; 2 Cor 1:2; Gal 1:4)

(From; The Bible Knowledge Commentary) Everlasting Father:

Many people are puzzled by this title because the Messiah, God's Son, is distinguished in the Trinity from God the Father. How can the Son be the Father? Several things must be noted in this regard.

First, the Messiah, being the second Person of the Trinity, is in His essence, God. Therefore He has all the attributes of God including eternity. Since God is One (even though He exists in three Persons), the Messiah is God.

Second, the title "Everlasting Father" is an idiom used to describe the Messiah's relationship to time, not His relationship to the other Members of the Trinity. He is said to be everlasting, just as God (the Father) is called "the Ancient of Days" (Dan. 7:9). The Messiah will be a "fatherly" Ruler.

Third, perhaps Isaiah had in mind the promise to David (2 Sam. 7:16) about the "foreverness" of the kingdom which God promised would come through David's line. The Messiah, a Descendant of David, will fulfill this promise for which the nation had been waiting.

5. Prince of Peace.

Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (NIV)

Mic 5:4-5 And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. This One will be our peace...

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Eph 2:14-18 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. and He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

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

Heb 13:21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord,

III. Conclusion

Prov 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and are safe.