

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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All Is Well for Jesus Brings Peace  
Isaiah 9:5; Luke 2:8-14  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 9:5

*Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.*

## **EXPLANATION**

Isaiah prophesied about the peace of Jesus. I want to tell you a very interesting story which will explain the verse. Ninety-nine years ago this month, men were fighting in World War I. This war was known for its trenches. The trench warfare was terrible. The trenches were dug as fortifications. The war was fought from these trenches. At different times during the war, the trenches were closer and further apart based on how they were dug, based on the strategic efforts of the enemies. At times the trenches would be up to 1/2 mile apart; at other times they were only a few yards from each other. I read one account where the trenches were only 15 yards from each other. So, we're looking at 45 feet or 30 feet depending on the area in the Western Front.

Let me illustrate this even further, there might be an enemy in a trench about six feet deep only a few yards from another enemy in a trench six or so feet or so deep. These trenches would go for miles and miles. Men were in trenches for miles. Trench warfare turned out to be so brutal and costly in human lives that, after the war, governments decided they would never fight this way again. Life in the trenches was terrible. Rain created mud, and soldiers were plagued with sickness. Barbed wire was stretched between the trenches on a stretch of land called no-man's land, and at night under the cover of darkness, soldiers would sneak out into the barbed wire area, and they would either reinforce it or weaken it based on their

goal. During the day, these entrenched enemies sent shells into each other's trenches and shot at each other. The idea of trench warfare was one man at a time dies until there's no one left to fight.

An interesting thing happened in various places along the Western Front on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day of 1914. At one place in the trenches, the British heard the Germans singing a Christmas carol, and when the Germans stopped, the British answered back, singing another carol. At another place, candles were put on top of the trenches, and at another place, someone put up a small Christmas tree, and then the artillery ceased. The two sides started shouting Christmas greetings to one another, and before long men were standing in no-man's land—enemies singing, exchanging coffee, chocolate, and other gifts. There's a picture of it.

It's hard to believe that there was a camera. It's hard to believe that a picture has survived 99 years, but there's a picture of enemies on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day celebrating Christ's birth. One man who served throughout the war, a British man, said, “I wouldn't have missed that unique and weird Christmas day for anything. I spotted a German officer, some sort of lieutenant I should think, and being bit of a collector, I intimated to him that I had taken a fancy to some of his buttons, I brought up my wire clippers, and with a few def snips removed a couple of his buttons and put them in my pocket. I then gave him two of my buttons in exchange. The last I saw was one of the machine gunners, who is a bit of an amateur hairdresser in life, cutting the unusually long hair of a docile German soldier who was patiently kneeling on the ground while the automatic clippers crept up the back of his neck.”

Another went on to describe the singing time which ended in *Auld Lang Syne*. This other soldier said, “All of us English, Scots, Irish, Prussians, Worden Burgers, etc. joined in. “It was absolutely astounding, and if I hadn't seen it, and if I had seen it on cinematograph film, I would have sworn it was faked.”

Now, all along the Western Front, stories came out later on that gifts were exchanged, and someone produced a soccer ball, and a game of soccer started. It is said that a hundred thousand soldiers experienced the unofficial truce on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Then, the generals, angered at what had happened

demanded an end to the fraternization, and when Christmas was over, the fighting began again.

The application here is simple. The name of Jesus, the celebration of his birth, brought peace among enemies in the middle of a war. The name of Jesus is powerful, indeed, and when we look at the world today that has at least 33 wars and conflicts going on, it's hard to imagine that one day it will be over because Jesus will bring worldwide peace. This unofficial truce of 1914 gives us a glimpse of what it will be like. One man plucks the buttons off of a uniformed enemy for his own collection and takes a couple of buttons and hands them to another enemy. One day former soldiers, former enemies, will laugh when they take off their boots and throw them in the fire.

For those of us who think recycling is a new concept, it was around in Isaiah's day, because some day there will be a need to have a fire for some reason, and soldiers will just laugh as they throw their uniforms and the enemies' uniforms into a fire and watch it burn. Only Jesus will accomplish that.

## **1-THE ANGELS ANNOUNCED THE BIRTH OF THE PEACE-BEARER.**

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 2:8-14

*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

## **EXPLANATION**

The angels announced the birth of the peace-bearer. There is debate about the correct translation of what the angel said due to the oldest Greek writings that we

have. The most literal translation for the most popular Greek text is this, “On earth, peace to men of goodwill.” We know that the word “men” actually means “people,” and I don't want to get hung up on translation here, but I do want to say that God through Jesus brings peace. His literal introduction to the world included peace. The purpose for which he came is to redeem mankind and bring about peace. The shepherds were the lowest on the social ladder, and yet the heavenly hosts of angels who filled the sky appeared to them to announce the peace of Jesus. We know the rest of the story. The excited shepherds went to find this Jesus.

We also have that in the New Testament that Jesus brought peace to troubled lives during Bible times. If you do a word study on the name of Jesus, you will not believe how many times that word, “peace,” comes right alongside “Jesus.” When Jesus teaches, he uses the word peace, and, then, when Jesus healed people, he used the word “peace” because Jesus, his purpose, is to bring peace.

#### **SCRIPTURE** Mark 5:24-34

*So, Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. <sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. <sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” <sup>31</sup> “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” <sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”*

When Jesus healed people, he used the word “peace” because his purpose, is to bring peace. In Luke 7, there's another woman, a woman who lived a sinful life, she found out that Jesus was having supper nearby, and she went there, and she broke all the social rules of the day. She went into the home of this Pharisee, and she had an alabaster jar full of perfume, and she poured it on Jesus's feet. With her tears and

her hair, she wiped the perfume and bathed Jesus's feet in it. A Pharisee there questioned whether Jesus knew this woman, because he said that if Jesus knew who she was he may not be talking to her; she was known as a sinful woman. Well, Jesus spoke to him about forgiveness, and then he looked at the weeping woman, and he said, “Your sins are forgiven; your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

## **2-JESUS BRINGS PEACE.**

**SCRIPTURE** John 14:25-27

*“All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> 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.*”

## **EXPLANATION**

Jesus was teaching his disciples many things, and from their questions it seems that they were really troubled. They learned that Jesus would not always be with them. Jesus gives these words of comfort to his disciples. In John 20, after the resurrection, the disciples were in a house. All the doors were locked in the house because they were afraid of the Jews. Then, out of nowhere, Jesus appeared to them in his resurrected body, which was a literal body. He said, “Peace be with you.” After that, he showed them his hands. He showed them his side, and the disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. And, again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you.”

John 20:26-28 tells us, “A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Today, Jesus brings peace to troubled lives. He did it long ago; he's done it through the centuries, and today Jesus brings peace to troubled lives.

## ILLUSTRATION

On June 10, 1963, President Kennedy was giving a commencement speech at the Methodist University. These were some of the most challenging days of the Cold War, and he said, “I speak of peace therefore as the necessary rational end of rational men. I realize that the pursuit of peace is not as dramatic as the pursuit of war, and frequently the words of the pursuer fall on deaf ears, but we have no more urgent task.”

Here we are over 50 years later, and his words are just as poignant. There's just one problem. There aren't any rational men, or there aren't enough. Even though we are in a war-torn world, Jesus brings peace to individual, troubled lives, and his peace isn't handed out by rational. It isn't distributed through the United Nations or other governments. It comes directly from him in the power of his Holy Spirit, and anywhere on earth right now where there is peace, it is only because Jesus has brought peace because man without Jesus will always be war-torn.

The cross, an instrument of torture, brings peace to people's lives. Just this week I had lunch at a Middle Eastern restaurant right near the church, very close to our church in fact. I'm not sure what I ate, but it was really good. While talking with the waitress there, she asked where I worked, and I told her that I worked here. She said, “Oh, the church with the blue cross.” When she said that, a look of peace came over her face. She said, “I'm a Christian, but I can't tell my family.” The cross brings peace. That's why I said, months ago, that if it were up to me, we'd make the cross larger and raise it higher so people can see it from further away.

## SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 53:5

*“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*

Colossians 1:19

*“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”*

One minister said this, “In the biblical tradition, peace is a very rich concept. It implies much more than simply an absence of war or strife. It implies more than simply a passing feeling of contentment or relaxation and order. It implies the fullness of joy and life that can only be attained and experienced in a climate of justice, order, truth, respect and goodwill. Saying peace in biblical language is akin to what we moderns might imply by the phrase ‘peace and prosperity.’ By wishing this for those around us and asking Jesus to give it to us, we are invoking our hope and faith in God who is the source and sustainer of all good things, material and spiritual.”

Because of the peace that Jesus brings, we can all say, “All is well.” Isaiah prophesied about this peace that Jesus would bring. The angels announced the birth of the peace-bearer. Jesus brings peace to troubled lives, and let me tell you this, Jesus will bring peace to you.

### **3-JESUS WILL BRING PEACE TO YOU.**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Romans 5:1

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

Romans 8:6

*The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.*

## John 16:33

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

From these verses, I derive these questions:

- If we're justified by faith, then where is your faith? Only through Jesus will you find peace.
- If the mind of a sinful man is death but that which is controlled by the spirit is life and peace, then where is your mind? Only Jesus will fill your mind with life and peace.
- Since we have trouble in this world, are you troubled? Only in Jesus will you find peace for your weary soul.

The message of peace through Jesus is so profound, let's not miss it today. Let's not miss it through this Christmas season. Jesus is the peace-bearer, the peace-bringer. He wants to give peace to all of us in our own lives. People are troubled and don't have peace; we know that they need to surrender that troubled life, that unpeaceful life to Jesus. We pray for peace in the world. We pray for peace among individuals in our own lives. Let the peace of Christ begin in me. If you don't know the peace of Christ, you can know it today. Ask Jesus to be your Savior. Ask him to forgive you of your sin, and when you have received his forgiveness, you will have peace like you've never had it before. It's a peace that won't go away.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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