

THIS ONE WILL BE OUR PEACE

MICAH 5:5A

It is far too common that people think the peace of Jesus represents some sort of universal nirvana. Every Christmas they hear the truncated message of the angel host to the shepherds, “And on earth peace,” never hearing the accurate rendering of the rest of the line: “among men with whom He is pleased.” Those preferring the simpleton flavor of Christianity believe Christ came to inaugurate a feel-good, touchy-feely, *kumbaya* paradise. But He did not.

“Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three.”

Luke 12:51-52

The peace which the angels spoke of near the nativity, and the peace Jesus Himself spoke of on a number of occasions, is a *personal* peace. First, it is reserved for those who trust in Christ Jesus as Lord, those who have given their lives to Him.

“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.”

John 16:33

The peace Jesus speaks of does not neutralize or even ameliorate conflict; it is the comfort that sustains believers *through*

conflict. Without Him there can be no peace; one must be in Him to receive and experience it.



This is a supernatural peace that is not horizontal, but vertical. It does not mean at all that believers will have peace with their fellow man—indeed, a life in Christ invites the same ridicule and animosity from unbelievers experienced by the Lord Himself. No, it means they will have a peace that comes from God, and peace *with God*.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Only in Christ does man have peace with God. Without it, there is only enmity and alienation. And the removal of that enmity—that peace—is available only from above.

With this peace man can enjoy a supernatural communion with holy God, but he can also weather any storm, face any tribulation, bear up under any trial.

It is a peace that exists nowhere else on earth. Only in the hearts of those who belong to Him.

“Peace I leave with you;
My peace I give to you;
not as the world gives
do I give to you.
Do not let your heart be
troubled, nor let it
be fearful.”

John 14:27

