



Waiting for Fullness:
Advent Reflections on Christ's Coming

Waiting for Peace

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Introduction:

- Songs About Peace
- A World at War
- The Five Spheres of Peace

The Human Dilemma....

⁹What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. ¹⁰As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹there is no one who understands; here is no one who seeks God. ¹²All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." ¹³"Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." ¹⁴"Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." ¹⁵"Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ruin and misery mark their ways, ¹⁷and the way of peace they do not know." ¹⁸"There is no fear of God before their eyes." – Romans 3:9-18

Promise and Prophecy: God's Answer to the Human Dilemma...

"The prophecies about the Messiah were not a bunch of scattered predictions randomly placed throughout the Old Testament but they form a unified promise-plan of God, where each promise is interrelated and connected into a grand series comprising one continuous plan of God." – Walter C. Kaiser Jr., The Promise of the Messiah

Jesus Makes Peace with God....

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and 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. – Col. 1:15-20

The Vertical Impacts the Horizontal.... (Ephesians 2:13-18)

Peacemakers...

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. – Matthew 5:9

"Let the peace of God be the umpire in your heart. If the peace of Christ is the umpire in our hearts, then, when feelings clash, and when we are pulled in two directions at the same time, when Spirit led compassion conflicts in our hearts with self-centered indifference and irritation, the decision of Christ through the Spirit will keep us in the way of love and peace."
– William Barclay, Commentary on Colossians
