

Christmas
Good News in Troubling Times (Part 2)
(Matthew 2:7- 8)

Introduction: While it is not common for us to think of things such as pain, suffering, injustice, and cruelty as associated with Christmas, Jesus was born into the midst of a time of cruelty, suffering and death. And it was into a time of anger, hatred, and malice that Jesus, the prince of peace emerged into bringing a peace that saves, secures, and satisfies men.

- I. Jesus brought a peace that saves men: (2:1-3)** The truth is, a person either accepts the evidence of scripture at this point or rejects it – and whatever they do with the evidence is what they do with Jesus.
- A. He was born in a manger** – Who was this helpless baby born in a manger barely 5 miles from Herod?
1. He was the child of the Holy Spirit (Mt. 1:18-25)
 2. Jesus birth created great difficulty (cf. Lk. 1:26-35; Mt. 1:18,19)
 3. Jesus birth required special revelation (Lk. 1:26-35; Mt. 1:20 – 23).
 4. Jesus birth was the fulfillment of prophecy. (Isa. 7:14 in 1:23; Micha 5:2 in 2:6; Hosea 11:1 in 2:15; Jer. 31:15 in 2:18; 2:23.”
 - a. These citations make an important point: Christianity is a religion founded by God long ago and brought to fulfillment in Christ Jesus!
 - b. These texts also link the Old Testament together with the New Testament, demonstrating their harmony and trust ability.
 5. He was born among men – but He was “God with us” (Mt. 1:23, cf. Lk.1:35)
- B. He was born to be Messiah** – (The word “Christ and Messiah in (Mt. 1:18 are the same word).
1. Jesus accepted the title Messiah three times: (Mt. 16:17; Mk. 14:61,62; Jn. 4:26)
 2. **Why did Jesus come?** (Mt. 1:21,23; Rom. 5:1; cf. Rom.5:10: 1:18; 8:7)

II. Jesus brought a peace that secures men:

A. He did not come to bring peace on earth –

B. He did come to bring peace to earth –

1. To those who have believed upon Jesus, they have received not only peace with God,
2. To those who have believed upon Jesus, they have received God’s peace. (Mt. 4:39; Lk. 24:31,32; Jn. 21:15-17)

III. Jesus brought a peace that satisfies men:

A. His peace satisfies our fears – (2 Tim 1:7; Rom. 8:15; 1 Jn. 4:18)

B. His peace satisfies our faith –

1. It is hard to see all the injustices and evil in the world today.
2. It is even harder for the people of the world who do not have a personal relationship with Christ to see these things and believe God is a loving God and still in control. (But He is!) (Rom. 8:22; Mt. 24:6; Lk. 21:11,25-26; Col. 1:17)
 - a. We know from God’s word certain things will and must happen....
 - b. We know God’s word promises He is working all things out according to His good and perfect plan (Rom.8:28)
 - c. And we know we have this hope, that as we see these difficult things coming and happening the end time is drawing close (Jesus said) *At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.*” (Lk. 21:27-28)

Conclusion: While it is not common for us to think of things such as pain, suffering, injustice, and cruelty as associated with Christmas, it is still a time to celebrate in the midst of all this stuff, because we know God sent us the Prince of Peace. – Jesus! Our Emmanuel, God, with us!

Let’s make this Christmas a celebration of peace that only comes through Jesus, our Prince of Peace!