

Where was the peace?

You had to look twice to understand what was going on.



There, about halfway up the cliff, was a bird's nest in a tiny hollow in the rock. A mother bird was sitting on that nest with her little babies tucked underneath her, sleeping soundly.

In the midst of life's storms is Jesus, promising never to reject those who come to Him turning from their own wrong way, and believing in Him.

One day there will be global peace

Before Jesus was born, prophets told us all about Him. Bible prophets also tell us

that one day He will return, not this time as a baby, but as Lord and King. Jesus will rule with righteousness. The Bible tells us that nation will speak peace to nation. They will learn war no more. They will turn their swords to ploughs. The lion will lie down with the lamb. Those who have rejected Jesus will be rejected by Him. Those who have called upon the name of the Lord will be with Him.

Ultimately, because Jesus came and died for us, we can know that we can be with Him forever in His heavenly home. Heaven is not a reward for doing good, but a gift Jesus came to purchase for us. It is a gift – the greatest gift. To know that you belong to God for time and eternity is the source of real and lasting peace. No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.

I would like to know more about Jesus Christ.

- Please send me a free DVD about the life of Jesus.
- Please send me a free copy of John's Gospel (a book of the Bible that describes Jesus' life).
- Please send me a free booklet on how to become a Christian.

Name: _____

Address: _____

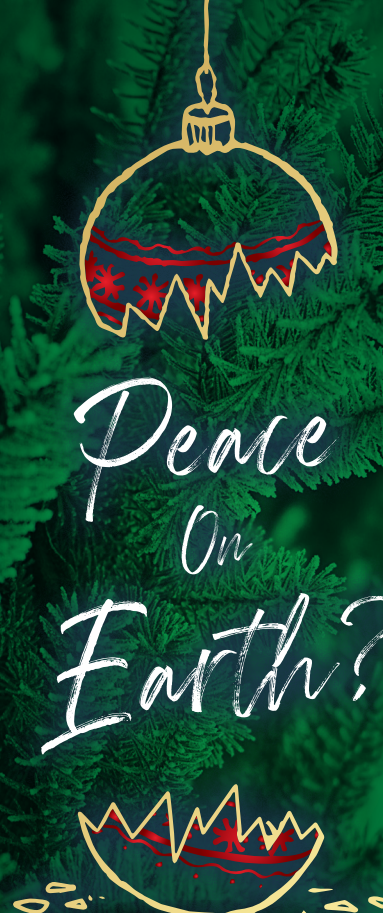
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Imagine: 2,000 years ago. Brutal Roman soldiers on the streets. Tax collectors exploiting ordinary people. Self-serving politicians disinterested in those they rule. Mass migration. Deep poverty. Religious leaders who deny truth and act like 'yes-men'.

And then: A host of angels appearing before working shepherds praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

Remember: Russian tanks racing over the Ukrainian border. Deadly wildfires engulfing Spanish homes. A gunman shooting dead 19 American children in their classroom. A former Japanese Prime Minister assassinated on a street corner. People queuing for days for food and fuel across

the world. 60 million people fleeing their homes because of war.

And then: Jesus, who was born and laid in a crib, to live and die on a cross, saying, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you."

Angels promised peace, and so did Jesus.

So, where is that peace?

Have you ever wondered if what the angels said, and what Jesus taught, was a fantasy?

Peace seems very distant. But, in fact, the peace God promised is a reality. And there is more to that peace than the shepherds realised, but it is made clear to us.

You can have peace with God

The baby born in Bethlehem was born to be crucified at a place called Calvary.

He is the Saviour. When He died He was dealing with our wrong. Sin is within us. It is the breaking of God's commands. It is offensive to Him. It cuts us off from God and would do so forever. But out of love for us, Jesus suffered, carrying our sin in our place. The hell we should suffer *after* death, Jesus suffered *before* death, not in the next world but in this. He did so because He loves us. If you ask Him to be your Saviour, you will "have peace with God."

You can have the peace of God

At Christmas we remember the birth of Jesus. At Easter we remember His death, His burial, and then His rising from the dead. The living Jesus is willing to forgive you and, by His Spirit, be with you if you put your trust in Him. The peace of God can rule our hearts whatever the circumstance. God is bigger than any of the troubles anyone may face.



Years ago, a major art gallery sponsored a competition for painters, offering prizes for the best painting on the subject of Peace. The winning painting was a real surprise. The scene was the ocean in a violent storm. The sky was ominous, lightning was cutting across the sky, and waves were crashing into the rock walls of the cliffs by the shore.

