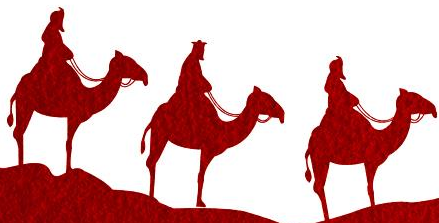


# Advent

*PEACE*



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day*

*Their old, familiar carols played*

*And wild and sweet, the words repeat:*

*“Peace on earth, goodwill to men.”*

*‘Till ringing, singing on its way,*

*The world revolved from night to day*

*A voice, a chime, a chance sublime,*

*With peace on earth, goodwill to men.*



*And in despair, I bowed my head.*

*“There is no peace on earth,” I said.*

*For hate is strong, and mocks the song*

*Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

*Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep.*

*“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!”*

*The wrong shall fail, the Right prevail*

*With peace on earth, goodwill to men.*



*And in despair, I bowed my head.*

*“There is no peace on earth,” I said.*

*For hate is strong, and mocks the song*

*Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

*Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep.*

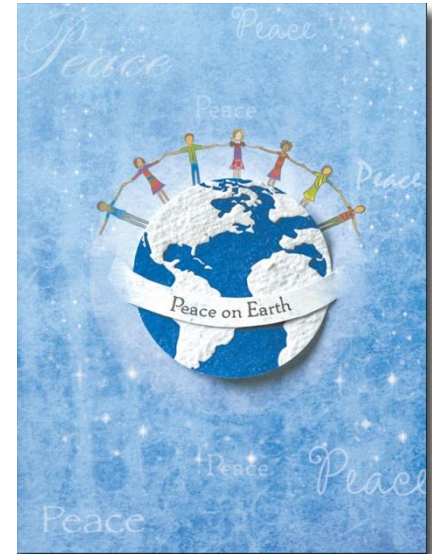
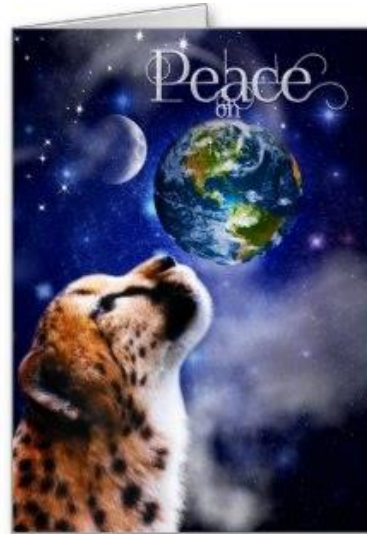
*“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!”*

***The wrong shall fail, the Right prevail***

***With peace on earth, goodwill to men.***



## “Peace on Earth”



- I. The **Passage** on Peace
- II. The **Presence** of Peace
- III. The **Absence** of Peace
- IV. The **Perspective** for Peace
- V. The **Promise** of Peace



# I. The **PASSAGE** on Peace



## LUKE 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup> *And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*

<sup>10</sup> *And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*





## LUKE 2:8-14

<sup>12</sup> *“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

<sup>13</sup> *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*



## LUKE 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup> *And in the same region there were* **SHEPHERDS** *out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*

<sup>9</sup> *And an* **ANGEL** *of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.<sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you*

*is born this day in the* **CITY of DAVID** *a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.<sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”*

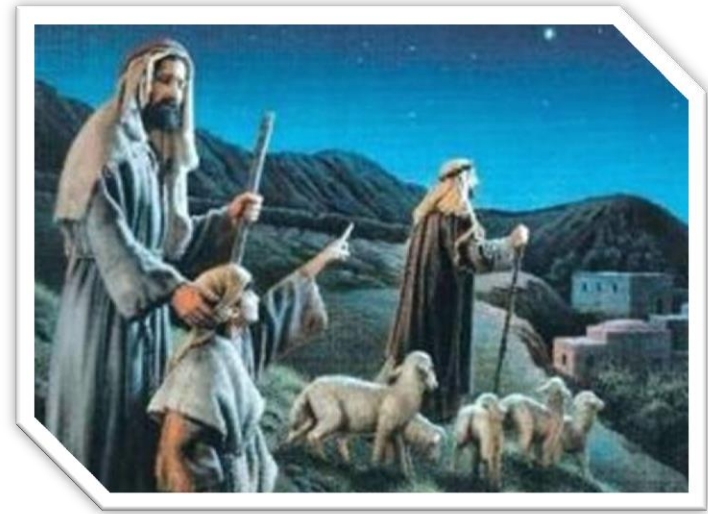


## 1. SHEPHERDS (v.9)

“Outcasts”

“Untrustworthy”

“Disrespected”



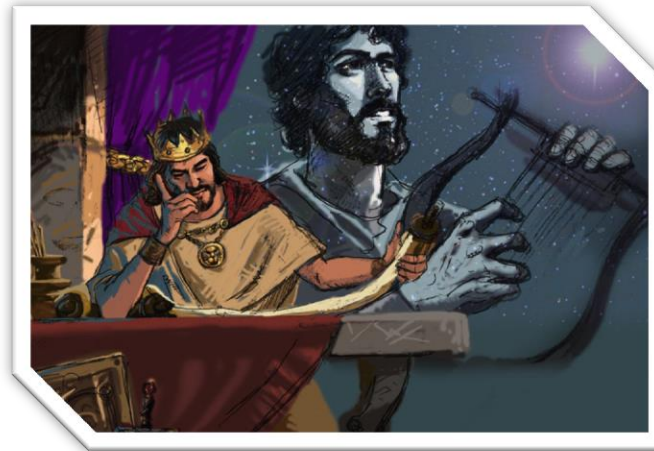
## Michael Card, “Shepherd’s Watch”

*Shepherd’s watch / listening to lamb’s bleat / tired backs / worn out and cold feet / all life long living like **outcasts** / all life long **longing for life**.*



## 2. TOWN (v.11)

“City of David” → refers to **KING DAVID**



## 2. TOWN (v.11)

“City of David” → refers to **KING DAVID**

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles

Written to **encourage** the post-exile Hebrews in their God-given identity.

Highlights the **spiritual lineage** of the people through faithful Kings.



## 3. ANGELS (v.9-14)

“Good news of great joy!” —————> **1 PETER 1:12**



<sup>12</sup> ...*the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news...things into which angels long to look.*



## 3. ANGELS (v.9-14)

**John Calvin, Institutes**

*“The gospel is not a doctrine of the tongue, but of life. It cannot be grasped by reason and memory only, but it is fully understood when it **possesses the whole soul and penetrates to the inner recesses of the heart.**”*



## Culmination of the Passage

<sup>14</sup> “*Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth PEACE  
to those in whom God’s favor rests.*”

So, what is PEACE?





I. The **PASSAGE** on Peace

II. The **PRESENCE** of Peace



## **Peace** • *English*

“a state of tranquility or quiet; an absence of hostility”

## **Peace** • *Scripture*

“a state of universal flourishing, wholeness, and delight.”

**“SHALOM”**





Shalom  
*as a*  
Tapestry



## Tim Keller, *Generous Justice*

*"God created all things to be in a beautiful, harmonious, interdependent, knitted, webbed relationship to one another. Just as rightly related physical elements form a tapestry, so rightly related human beings form a community. This inter-wovenness is what the Bible calls shalom, or **harmonious peace**.... [Shalom] means complete reconciliation, a state of the fullest flourishing in every dimension – physical, emotional, social, and spiritual – **because all relationships are right, perfect, and filled with joy.**"*



Righteousness —————> PEACE

## ISAIAH 32:17-18

<sup>17</sup> *And the effect of righteousness will be peace,  
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.*

<sup>18</sup> *My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,  
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*



What does **righteousness** look like?

**Bruce Waltke, *Understanding Proverbs***

*“Righteousness’ as a social term signifies that people do right by each other...In a nutshell, ‘righteousness’ means ‘to disadvantage oneself as necessary in order to advantage others,’ and ‘wickedness’ means ‘to disadvantage others in order to advantage oneself.’”*



What does **righteousness** look like?

**Bruce Waltke, *Understanding Proverbs***

*“Righteousness’ as a social term signifies that people do right by each other...In a nutshell, ‘righteousness’ means ‘to disadvantage oneself as necessary in order to advantage others,’ and ‘wickedness’ means ‘to disadvantage others in order to advantage oneself.’”*

**Emptying ourselves in order to fill others.**



## Bruce Waltke, *Understanding Proverbs*

*“Righteousness’ as a social term signifies that people do right by each other...In a nutshell, ‘righteousness’ means ‘to disadvantage oneself as necessary in order to advantage others,’ and ‘wickedness’ means ‘to disadvantage others in order to advantage oneself.’”*

**Best Example?**

*Jesus Christ*

**ISAIAH 53:5**

*<sup>5</sup> He was pierced for our transgressions...by his wounds, we are healed.*





I. The **PASSAGE** on Peace

II. The **PRESENCE** of Peace

III. The **ABSENCE** of Peace



**Shalom** doesn't seem to align to our *experience*.

## ROMANS 8:20-22

<sup>20</sup> For the *creation was subjected to futility*, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that *the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now*.



**Shalom** doesn't seem to align to our *experience*.

## **ROMANS 8:20-22**

<sup>20</sup> For the *creation was subjected to futility*, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that *the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now*.

There are **COSMIC**, **HISTORIC**, and **CORPORATE** examples.



## 1. COSMIC Absence

### GENESIS 1:31

*31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.*

### GENESIS 3:17

*17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life.*



## 1. COSMIC Absence

### Typhoon Haiyan – Philippines

#### **BBC News**

*Reports marked winds as high as 235 mph. Houses have been flattened by the massive storm surge that accompanied the Typhoon. There's no clean water, no electricity and very little food. City officials said they were struggling to distribute aid and that looting was widespread. In some areas, the dead are being buried in **mass graves**.*



## 1. COSMIC Absence



## 1. COSMIC Absence



## 1. COSMIC Absence

### 2010 Haiti - Cholera Outbreak



*“Where is God?”*





## 1. COSMIC Absence

### 2010 Haiti - Cholera Outbreak



*“Where is God?”*

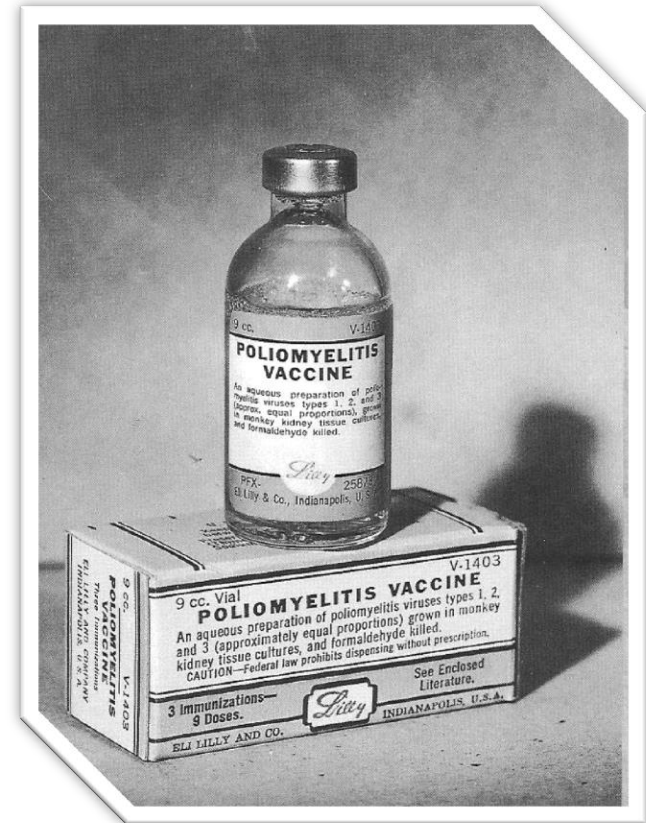


# THE ABSENCE of PEACE

Advent 2013

## 2. HISTORIC Absence

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century *Utopianism*



## 2. HISTORIC Absence

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century Wars

### Casualties

Congolese War

9,000,000

World War I

15,000,000

Russian Civil War

9,000,000

Stalin's Regime

20,000,000

World War II

66,000,000

Mao's Regime

40,000,000

*18 other wars totaling between 1-5 million casualties*



## 2. HISTORIC Absence

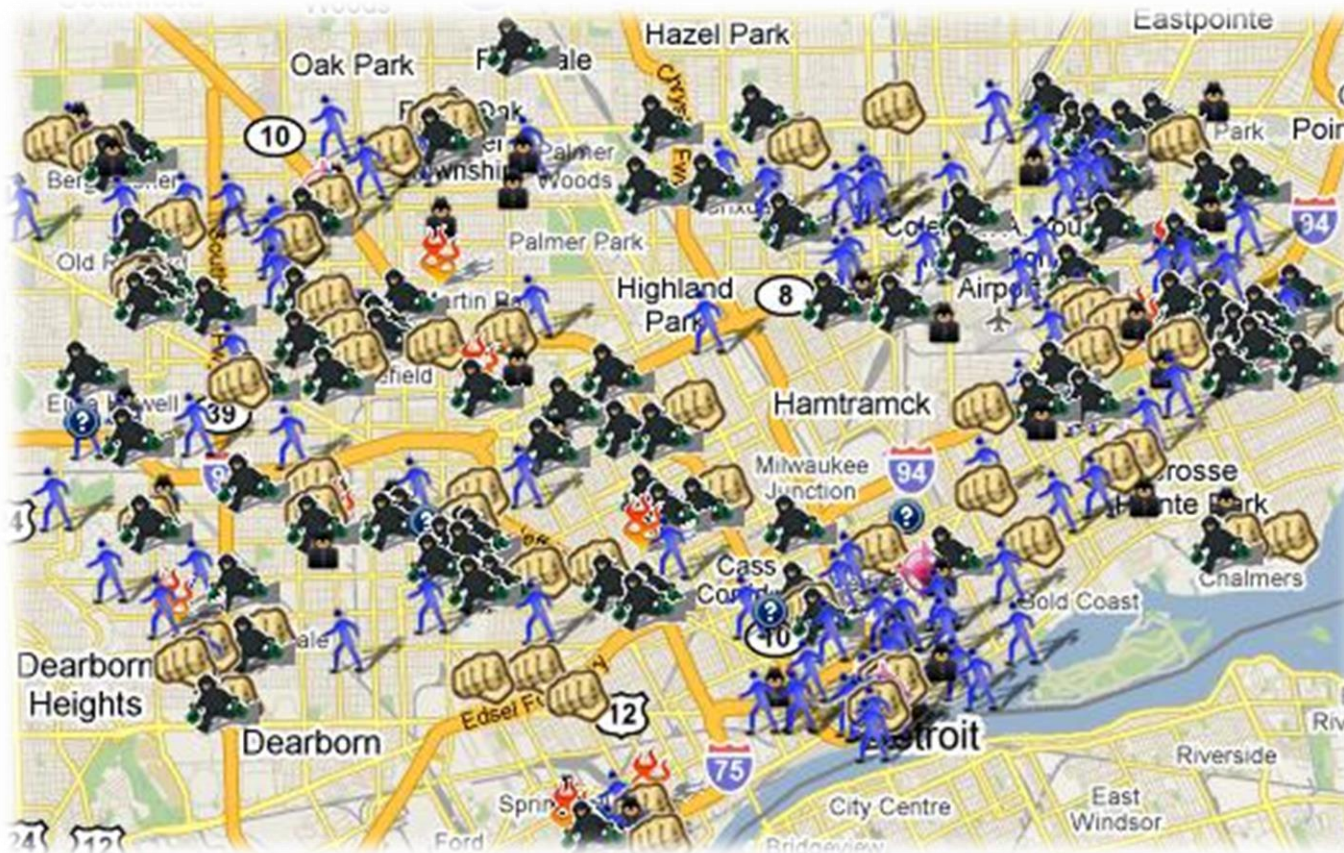


“Genocide”

“Holocaust”



### 3. CORPORATE Absence



**Detroit  
Crime**



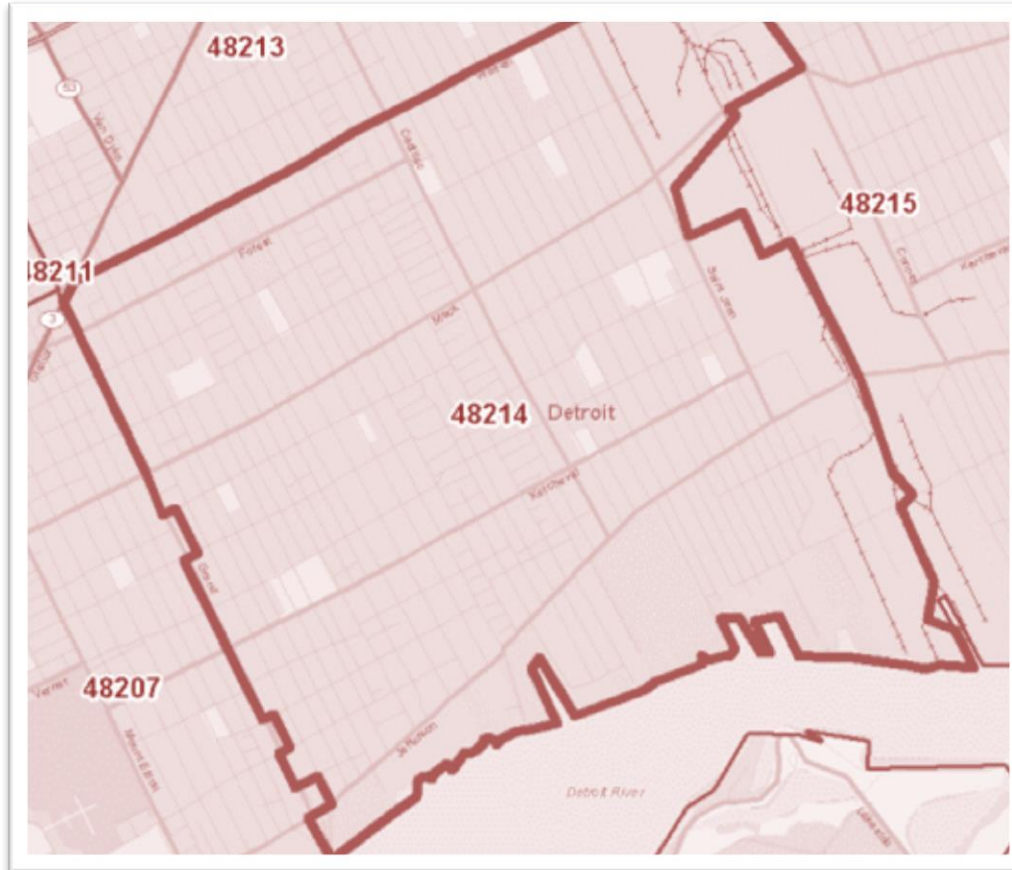
## 3. CORPORATE Absence



*“Barbershop Massacre”*  
**Detroit Free Press**



3. CORPORATE Absence



**The 48214**



*And in despair, I bowed my head.  
“**There is no peace on earth,**” I said.  
For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

It is difficult to **SEE** the Prince of Peace at work.

We need **PERSPECTIVE**.





I. The **PASSAGE** on Peace

II. The **PRESENCE** of Peace

III. The **ABSENCE** of Peace

IV. The **PERSPECTIVE** for Peace



## CASE STUDY: Simeon *and* Jesus

### LUKE 2:34-35

<sup>34</sup> *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed* <sup>35</sup> *(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”*



## CASE STUDY: Simeon *and* Jesus

### LUKE 12:49, 51-53

<sup>49</sup> *“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!*

<sup>51</sup> *Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.* <sup>52</sup> *For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.* <sup>53</sup> *They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”*



---

CASE STUDY: Simeon *and* Jesus

“Are Simeon’s prophecy and Jesus’ words justifying religious violence and hatred toward one’s family?”

**SHORT ANSWER:**

*No.*

**LONG ANSWER:**

*We need **PERSPECTIVE...***



[ Gaining *Perspective* ]

## C.S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*

*"If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."*



[ Gaining *Perspective* ]

You're standing in a cold room with no windows, filled with and masked, gloved, whispering individuals swarming around a table.

On that table is an unconscious body, obviously bruised, naked, and injured. The masked persons then proceed to systematically tie down and cut open the defenseless person.

**What are you to make of this scene?!**





Even something that  
**restores life**  
can be seen as evil  
with a limited  
***PERSPECTIVE.***



---

## CASE STUDY: Simeon *and* Jesus

“Are Simeon’s prophecy and Jesus’ words justifying religious violence and hatred toward one’s family?”

### MATTHEW 6:33

*<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

### MATTHEW 4:19-20

*<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

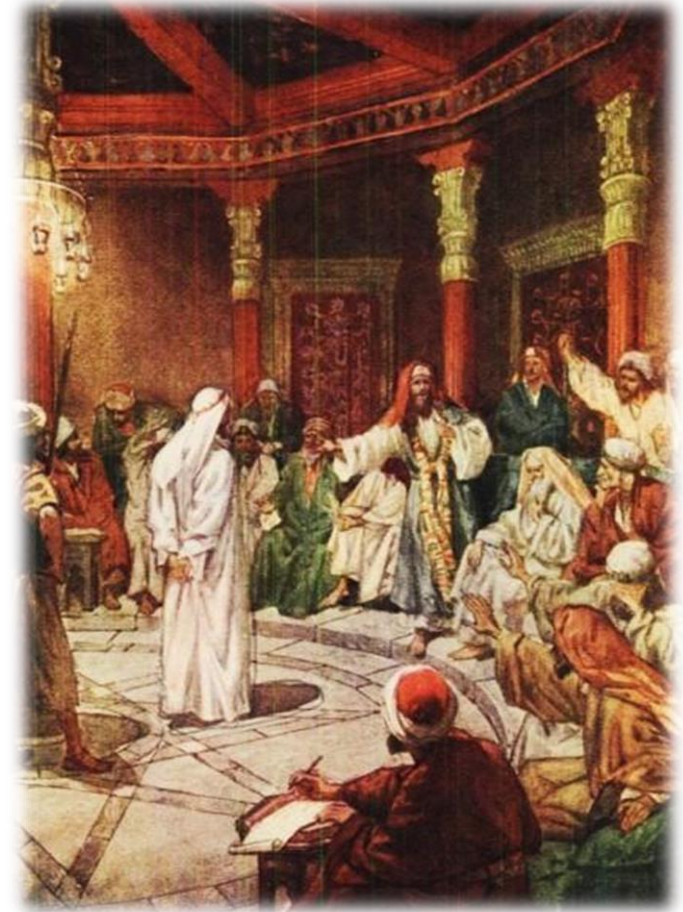
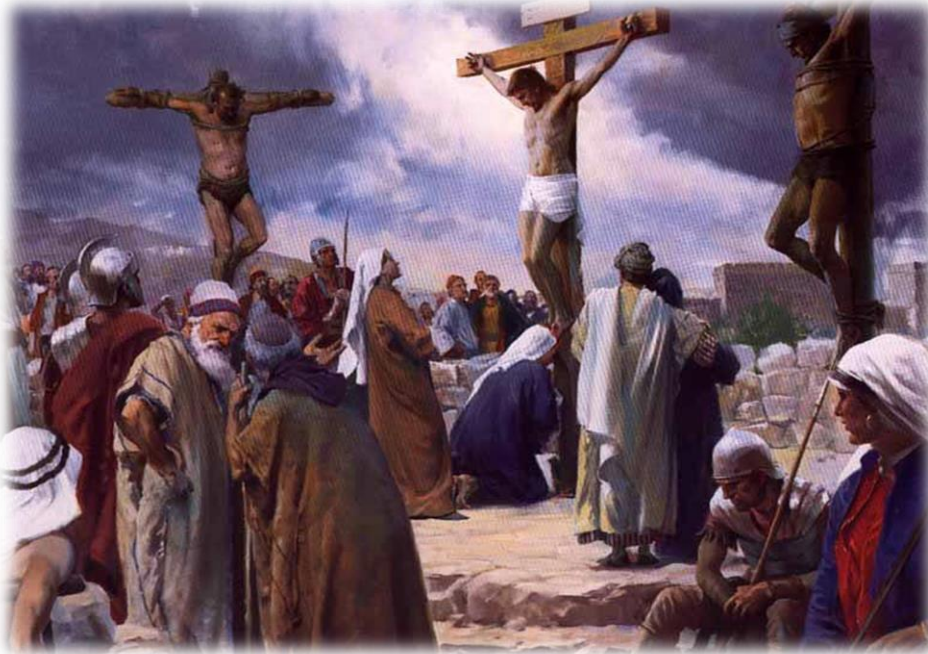
*<sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.*





# GREATEST EXAMPLE

*The Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus*



## PERSPECTIVE

*A patient trust in our faithful God to work ALL things for good.*



I. The **PASSAGE** on Peace

II. The **PRESENCE** of Peace

III. The **ABSENCE** of Peace

IV. The **PERSPECTIVE** for Peace

V. The **PROMISE** of Peace



**QUESTION:** Since our **PERSPECTIVE** is limited,  
how do we correct it?



**QUESTION:** Since our **PERSPECTIVE** is limited, how do we correct it?

**ANSWER:**  
Thinking and  
reflecting about life's  
“**BIG QUESTIONS**”



## REVELATION 21:1-5

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, *coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

<sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, *the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*”



## REVELATION 21:1-5

*4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

*5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”*



## ROMANS 8:21

*<sup>21</sup> The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

## ISAIAH 2:4

*<sup>21</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;  
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war anymore.*





**ISAIAH 65:17**

*<sup>17</sup> For behold, I create new heavens*

*and a new earth,*

*and the former things shall not be remembered*

*or come into mind.*



## ISAIAH 65:17

*<sup>17</sup> For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered  
or come into mind.*

All Brokenness —————> **REDEEMED**

All Wrongs —————> **RIGHTED**

All Destruction —————> **RESTORED**



## Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Brothers Karamazov

*“I believe like a child that suffering will be healed and made up for, that all the humiliating absurdity of human contradictions will vanish like a pitiful mirage...that in the world’s finale, at the moment of eternal harmony, something so precious will come to pass that it will suffice for all hearts, for the comforting of all resentments, for the atonement of all the crimes of humanity, for all the blood that they’ve shed; that it will make it not only possible to forgive but to justify all that has happened.”*



**So, now what?**



So, now what?

**Be** • *peaceful satisfaction*

*To be pleased, assured,  
comfortable, and to  
wait for Christ's return*

**Do** • *peace-making*

*To actively participate  
in Christ's Kingdom  
here and now*



So, now what?

**Be** • *peaceful satisfaction*

*To be pleased, assured,  
comfortable, and to  
wait for Christ's return*

**Do** • *peace-making*

*To actively participate  
in Christ's Kingdom  
here and now*

Peacemaking → *Anticipation and Action*



Peacemaking —————→ *Anticipation and Action*



## NT Wright, *After We Believe*

*“Imagine a rightful king coming secretly to his people, and gathering a small group of those people to help him overthrow the rulers who wrongfully rule from his throne. When he becomes king, fully and finally, his followers will obviously surrender their whole lives to him as a show of allegiance to their True King.*

*But when they publicly obey him before the overthrow of the evil rulers – even when the True King is not yet acknowledged – they are genuinely anticipating the obedience they will offer to him in the future.”*





Peacemaking —————> *Anticipation and Action*

## ROMANS 5:1

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## COLOSSIANS 1:20

*<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

## EPHESIANS 2:14

*<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility*



## Peacemaking —————> *Anticipation and Action*

### **JOHN 14:27**

*27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

### **ROMANS 14:17**

*17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

### **MATTHEW 5:9**

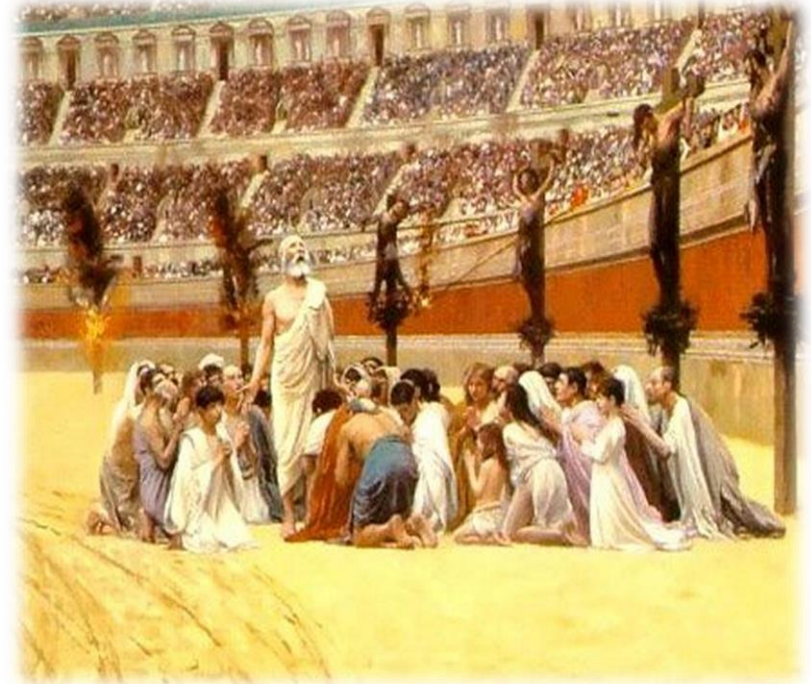
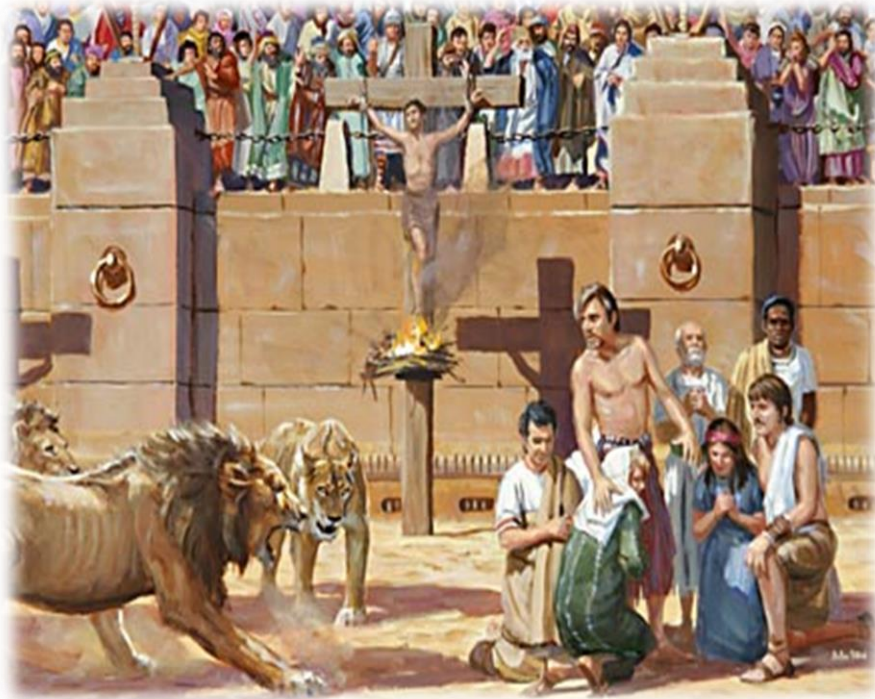
*9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

### **PSALM 34:14**

*14 Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it*



Peacemaking —————> *Anticipation and Action*



*Early Church* | Peacemakers



## Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*

*“We ourselves were well familiar with war and murder...but all of us have exchanged our swords for ploughshares, our spears for farm tools. Now we cultivate the fear of God, justice, kindness to men, faith, with the expectation of the future given to us by the Father himself through the Crucified One.”*



- I. The **PASSAGE** on Peace
- II. The **PRESENCE** of Peace
- III. The **ABSENCE** of Peace
- IV. The **PERSPECTIVE** for Peace
- V. The **PROMISE** of Peace

# CONCLUSION



*Then pealed the bells, more loud and deep.*

*“God is not dead, nor does he sleep!”*

*The wrong shall fail, the right prevail*

*With peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

What is the source of Longfellow’s **PEACE**?



*The trumpet shall resound  
And the Lord shall descend!  
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

What is the source of Spafford's *PEACE*?



*In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things **through Christ who gives me strength.***

What is the source of the Apostle Paul's **PEACE**?





## Lawyer

- *Luke 10*

## Rich Young Ruler

- *Mark 10*

## Disciples

- *Matthew 4*

