

The Search for Peace

Ephesians 2:13-18*

In Luke 2 the angel of the Lord announced the arrival of the Christ-child to the shepherds. Then a great company of angels engaged in praising God in the highest. The lyrics they sang are literally translated as “on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.”

There are four mentions of the word *peace* in the Ephesians 2 passage:

- (14) “He Himself is our *peace*,” Paul says, speaking of Christ, and
- (15) “He has established *peace*” and,
- (17) “He came and preached *peace* to you who were far off and *peace* to those who were near.”

I want to underscore for you the fact that this is not mere doctrine, not mere theology. If you are having a conflict with anybody —whether it is in your home, at your work, in your neighborhood, in the church, or in the world, this is the way of peace. This is the secret of peace. This is the key to peace. God’s peace is not given to those who have good will, but to those who are recipients of God’s good will or favor.

The person of peace (13-14a)

The process of peace (14b-16)

The possession of peace (17-18)

Christ's Birth Was at Perfect Time

In a debate with the atheist (and now deceased) Christopher Hitchens, William Lane Craig noted how Christ’s arrival on earth occurred at the perfect time. Craig said:

Human beings have existed for thousands of years on this planet before Christ’s coming. But what’s really crucial here is not the time involved; rather, it’s the population of the world. The Population Reference Bureau estimates that the number of people who have ever lived on this planet is about 105 billion people. Only two percent of them were born prior to the advent of Christ. Erik Kreps of the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research says, “God’s timing couldn’t have been more perfect. Christ showed up just before the exponential explosion in the world’s population.”

The Bible says in the fullness of time God sent forth his Son, and when Christ came, the nation of Israel had been prepared. The Roman peace dominated the Mediterranean world; it was an age of literacy and learning. The stage was set for the advent of God’s Son into the world. And I think in God’s providential plan for human history, we see the wisdom of God in orchestrating the development of human life and then in bringing Christ into the world in the fullness of time.

William Lane Craig, “Does God Exist,” Reasonable Faith (4-9-09)

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5 (NASB95)

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God’s Word.