

The Season of Advent: **The Angel's Sunday of Peace**

- * The Season of Advent is a time of “looking forward” and “Expectation!”
- * It is a period of time when you allow and even enjoy the “building up” of “wonder, hope, faith, joy and peace!”
- * Those are all elements of life that we need in order to walk victoriously through life and it's trials, twists and turns!
- * As we meditate on the Miracle of Christmas let's realize that the Lord has designed His creation with Wonder and Mystery and this is one of the elements of the awesomeness of the whole story of Advent!

Colossians 2:2-3 (NIV)

2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Ephesians 3:2-6 (NIV)

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:26-27 (NIV)

26 The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Romans 16:25 (NIV)

25 Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past.

- * Hidden within this mystery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the hope, faith, joy and peace that we all so desperately need!

I. The events that led to Christmas is an explosion of the natural and

spiritual or the human and the divine!

A. Please know, that statement IS NOT just a poetic expression, but rather a literal occurrence!

1. Remember, The Word *was* made flesh! (John 1:1-14)
2. A Child was born but a Son that had always existed was given! (Isaiah 9:6)
3. A virgin did experience a supernatural conception and birth! (Isaiah 7:14)
4. This whole event was prophesied over 600 years before it occurred! (Isaiah 11:1-10)

B. If we confine Jesus to only being divine, we can distance ourselves from having to become like Him!

Hebrews 4:15 (NIV)

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin.

1. The humanity of Jesus is what we struggle the most with!
2. HOW could God become flesh?
3. When did Jesus know who he was?
4. How is it possible for an infinite God to become finite?

Hebrews 5:7-8 (NIV)

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered

Luke 2:52 (NIV)

52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

C. The challenge we have with accepting this truth is that by nature of this fact we are challenged to change and become more like Jesus in all we do!

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV)

15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

II. While there exists a great mystery in the incarnation or Jesus being born in Bethlehem or the Word made flesh, there is amazing

empowerment for us in this truth! — This is the Peace of Advent! -

A. This Peace of Advent that we celebrate is the very heart of the Gospel!

Ephesians 2:13-18 (NIV)

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

1. This is spoken in context of the New Covenant!
2. The Gospel of Peace!

Ephesians 6:15 (NRSV)

15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

B. This is “the explosion” of the natural and spiritual!

Luke 1:26-35 (NIV)

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” 34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” 35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called[a] the Son of God.

1. So it is with us today! Through prayer and relationship to God, our natural circumstances experience the supernatural effects of our Spiritual Heavenly Father!

Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Philippians 4:7 (NIV)

7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (NIV)

16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

2. This is the Peace of Advent.

3. Rather than a feeling of peace.....we have

The Prince of Peace!