



Advent Peace

Luke 1:67-80

Week of December 5, 2021

Before Connect Group

- Luke 1:67-80
- Watch the sermon by going to <http://switzerlandcommunitychurch.org>

A decorative wreath made of green leaves and red berries surrounds the text. In the center of the wreath is a gold star above a gold halo.

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Luke 1:67-80, ESV

Sermon Notes

The birth of Jesus, though it may be tough to see, is both the visitation of the awesomeness and holiness of God along with the fulfillment of covenant hope and promise.

To “adore” Christ means to celebrate Him, to center celebration, to elevate celebration, and to prioritize Him. It means to make sure that nothing takes any time away from Him. Rather, make more time. To experience a deep love for Him. This is what I hope the topics of Advent over the next few weeks will help us do. Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.

This week we celebrate the Peace that comes in the birth of Jesus Christ. In order to continue our journey towards adoration, it is imperative that we understand the Peace that comes with the birth of this baby boy. We are going to dive into the truth of what it means to celebrate the birth of the Son of God who is the very presence of God visiting us. *Luke 2:10-14 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”*

The idea of peace can mean a lot of different things in today's world. Most often, peace is spoken of as something you can choose, or create. However, this is not true peace. The peace that we are going to talk about this morning, which comes only in Christ, is a peace that is given to us.

Zechariah's prophecy is placed within the narrative about the birth of his son, John the Baptist. However, the entire thing is centered on the coming birth of Christ. I think this is profound. Zechariah spends the entire first half of this prophecy speaking about the promised coming of Christ (to vs. 75). And within these verses I will claim is an important formula for understanding the “peace” that has come to man in the birth of Jesus.

In order to navigate this important topic of peace in the birth of Christ, we are going to use vs. 68 of our text as a guide. “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people” Visited and Redeemed are two very important words. And the fact that they are put together is of significance. The birth of Christ signifies the visitation and redemption of God. I want to start off this morning talking about God “visiting” his people, then we will talk about the idea of His “redemption.”

The Visitation of God.

- It is truly amazing to think of the presence of God among us.
 - Since the narrative of man being cast out of the garden in the book of Genesis, we have been longing for the presence of God.
 - The very thing we want the most is the thing that threatens us the most. This is the struggle that exists within all humanity.
- Reality in the presence of God:
 - Pure righteousness and holiness.
 - This is good news to those who are righteous and holy
 - This is bad news to those who are consumed in sin.

- This is why I say that man is in such a disastrous situation. The very thing we are designed to long for, is the thing that we cannot have.
- God's presence brings with it a reckoning. All sin is judged and destroyed in the presence of a holy God.
- *Isaiah 13:6-9 "Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come! Therefore all hands will be feeble, and every human heart will melt. They will be dismayed: pangs and agony will seize them; they will be in anguish like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at one another; their faces will be aflame. Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it."*
- So why would anyone find pleasure in the presence of God?
- "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited..."
- Two main responses to the presence of God.
 - Fear and hopelessness at the power and destructive judgment of God.
 - Or, Blessing and worshipping His holy name.
 - Why would anyone sing praise in the midst of the visitation of God? Because of the grace and mercy of God establishing covenant.
 - Covenant of Peace.
 - *Genesis 9:8-13 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*
 - Covenant of Promise.
 - *Gen. 12:1-3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*
- This is why Israel responds to God's presence in Worship.
 - *Exodus 4:29-31 Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.*
- The birth of Jesus, though it may be tough to see, is both the visitation of the awesomeness and holiness of God along with the fulfillment of covenant hope and promise. God in the flesh. He is the Holy and Righteous one who has come amongst us who are riddled with sin for the redemption promised in the hope of the covenants.

Redemption of God.

- Redemption is a Peace from conquest.
- I do not want us to be fooled about what peace actually is. Peace is a removal of any adversary.
- Pax Romana - Augustus Caesar instituted the peace of Rome. It is not that Rome was peaceful, it is that Rome created peace for its citizens through its dominant strength and

victory over the enemy.

- When we talk about Peace in Christ, we are talking about a peace that follows the destruction of our Enemy.
- *Matthew 10:34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.*
- Our redemption is peace with God following Christ's victory over the enemy.
- *John 16:32-33 Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*
- *Hebrews 9:12 he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.*
- The birth of Jesus marks the visitation of God in the fulfillment of all covenantal hope, and the redemption of the believer by the violent victory over the Enemy.

Peace In Us This Advent Season

- Here is the truth about everyone this Advent. All are looking for peace.
- This is true of you, of your children, of your neighbors. This is true of your student's teachers and your colleagues at work.
- The only true peace to be found is in the coming of Christ. We can look all of our lives, but until Christ is presented to us, we will wrestle to find peace.
- *Luke 2:25-32 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."*
- Adoration of Christ prepares the way for proclaiming His peace.
 - The starting place is to be consumed in the peace that comes from His victory.
 - To worship and praise Him every day for the Salvation that he has brought to you in Christ.
 - Then boldly declare His Peace to those around you.
- This is no longer only about the Prophet John the Baptist, but in light of the salvation that has been provided to you and e, this is the declaration that comes from the mouths of all who call upon the name of the Savior, Jesus Christ.
- One of the greatest missteps in the church this Advent season is to get this out of order.
- So often we find the most value in the last step. To boldly declare His peace.
- This sounds good, but it is much like advertising a mint condition collectable sports car and attaching a picture of a broken down Volkswagen bus. This is the reason we are focusing our attention this advent season on adoration.

Connect Group Discussion Questions

- Everyone, whether they willfully admit it or not, is looking for peace. When have you needed peace in your life? What does the Gospel say about looking for peace?
- How does the presence of God signify the coming of peace in the world? Why did peace necessitate that Jesus Christ come and take on flesh?
- The coming of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, is good news to the righteous and bad news to the sinner. Where does our righteousness come from? How does God restore us to peace through the giving of Jesus Christ? What is the connection between peace and the victory of God?
- What does it mean that peace is achieved by waging war on our adversaries? As Christians, what do we wage war on and who is our primary thief of joy?
- Where does Christ bring peace in your daily life? Where does Christ bring peace for all eternity?
- How does the coming of peace lead to the adoration of God in worship?

Challenge For The Week

Peace is found through the ongoing battle against the adversaries of life. While we may tend to think that the battle is against people. Yet, God knew the biggest threat to our peace came from sin and destruction in which we all stood condemned.

- Spend some quiet time in your life and consider how the effects of sin has stolen peace from your life. Write down your thoughts on the robbing of peace and how Jesus Christ restored that peace in your life?
- Consider the weight of the sin on those who do not know Jesus Christ. Spend some time in prayer for those lost in need of a Savior. Pray that God would reach their heart this Christmas.

