

PEACE ON EARTH

Luke 2:8-20

Today people everywhere are crying for peace.

What did the angel mean that night when he brought the shepherds God's message of "Peace on Earth?" Did he mean that there would be no more war? There have been many wars since that time. Did the angel mean that no one would disagree about anything no matter what a person might say or do? If the definition of peace is no disagreement, then that must mean that there is no real truth, only truth as it seems to each person. But God tells us in His word that He is the Truth.

I think that to understand what the angels meant when they said "Peace on Earth," we need to use God's definition. To explain to us what He meant by "Peace on Earth," God gave us a real life picture.

Long ago near the city of Bethlehem, there were shepherds out in the fields at night, watching over their sheep. The night was quiet and peaceful except for the rustlings of the sheep, and the shepherds talking, when suddenly the darkness was shattered by the brightness of God's glory shining all around the shepherds.

The shepherds were startled and then terribly frightened, but the angel of the Lord spoke to them. He said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you^s born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Then suddenly, there were multitudes of angels, the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."

Just as suddenly as they had come, the angels were gone. The night was dark and quiet once more. But the shepherds were not quiet, for their lives had been changed. God had sent his angels to tell them the good news, the Messiah had come.

The babe that the angels spoke of is the source of peace, the peace that every person longs to have. Without the Saviour's peace, our hearts are a constant place of war. We are always fighting against the truth and God. It is only when we accept God's good will, His son as our Saviour, that we can have real peace.

The shepherds quickly left their sheep and went to Bethlehem to see the child that the angels had told them of. They found Mary and Joseph, along with the babe. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger of hay, just as the angels had told.

When the shepherds had seen for themselves that God's promise of peace was truly come, they went and told everyone that they met about the child. Everyone that heard them wondered about what the shepherds said.

The shepherds returned to their flocks and their duties, but they were forever changed. They glorified and praised God for all that they and heard and seen.

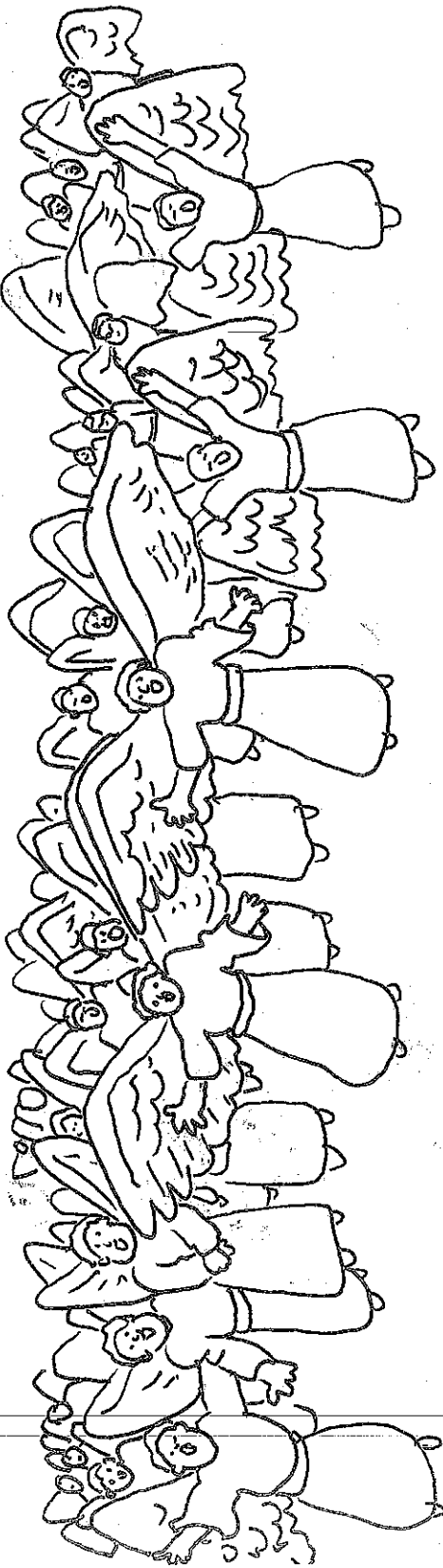
Moral Principle: True peace comes only from a right relationship with God.

When a person no longer fights against what is right and good, he will have peace of mind and soul. He will also be at peace with his neighbor.

LEARN: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 14:27



1. Color shepherds
black + cut out.
Paste on bottom
of card.

2. Color angels bright.
Cut out + paste on
top of card.

3. Cut out words +
paste inside card.

4. Glitter angels.

For God so loved the
world that He gave His only
begotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in Him should not
perish but have everlasting
life. *John 3:16*

John 3:16

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
Charles Wesley

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Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
Luke 2:13, 14

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