

Advent Devotions: Jesus, Prince of Peace

❑ Monday - The Prince of Peace.

“And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased’” (Luke 2:13-14). With the announcement of Christ’s birth came a proclamation of peace, for the baby born that night in Bethlehem was the “Prince of Peace” (Isa. 9:6), Hebrew, *Sar Shalom*, the world’s only source and hope for peace. Christ sends forth the Spirit, whose fruit is peace (Eph. 5:22), like a mighty river into the hearts of men (Isa. 66:12; John 7:38-39). Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful” (John 14:27). Christmas will come and go, but Christ’s peace lingers on in the hearts of those whose mind is stayed on Him. “Know Him, know peace; no Him, no peace”
Read Isaiah 26:3

❑ Tuesday - Peace With God.

God declares in His Word, “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear” (Isa. 59:2). Jesus said, “He who is not with Me is against Me” (Mt. 12:30). The non-Christian is “alienated and hostile” toward God (Col. 1:21). But Christ came to remove the hostility, “having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross” (Col. 2:14). “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).
Read Colossians 1:21-22

❑ Wednesday - Peace Like a River.

Most of Paul’s epistles begin with this greeting, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 1:2). Grace and peace come only from God. He is the Fountain (Rev. 22:1), whose life-giving streams pour forth grace and peace “like a river” (Isa. 66:12). Of God’s people, it is written, “Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights” (Psa. 36:8). And so, “let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost” (Rev. 22:17). Read Isaiah 48:18; Psalm 36:8-9

❑ Thursday - Peace of God.

God promises, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee” (Isa. 26:3), and again, “The peace of God shall guard your hearts and your minds” (Phil. 4:7). “Divine peace takes upon itself warlike functions, and garrisons the heart and mind” (Maclaren). “The man of trust and prayer has entered that impregnable citadel from which no one can dislodge him; and the name of that fortress is Christ Jesus” (Hendriksen). “Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance” (2 Thess. 3:16), and “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts” (Col. 3:15). “The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance on you, and give you peace” (Num. 6:24-26).
Read Philipians 4:6-9

❑ Friday - Peacemakers.

Christian, put on the full armor of God (Eph. 6:11-13), “having shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace” (Eph. 6:15). For “we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg [unbelievers] on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20). As it is written, “How lovely on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace and brings good news of happiness, who announces salvation...” (Isa. 52:7). “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Mt. 5:9).
Read 2 Corinthian 5:18-20