



אשׁוּרָה שְׁלֵמָה  
אֵלֵינוּ בְּשָׁלוֹם  
כְּרִיִּסְטְמָס?



**A BETTER, DEEPER PEACE**



**Advent** is about preparing mentally, spiritually, and even physically to create a greater sense of connection and occasion as we celebrate the incarnation of Jesus and also long for and anticipate His second coming.

# The Paradoxes of Advent

THE PARADOXES OF ADVENT

He is already  
here.



THE PARADOXES OF ADVENT

The world moves  
faster this time of  
year.



THE PARADOXES OF ADVENT

We are more  
aware than ever of  
what is lacking.



We need a deeper peace,  
a stronger hope, and a  
persistent joy.



<sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

LUKE 2:4 - 14



<sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a Son, wrapped Him snugly, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room. <sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night.

LUKE 2:4 - 14



<sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring **good news to you—wonderful, joyous news** for all people. <sup>11</sup> **Your Savior is born today** in David's city. He is **Christ the Lord**.

**LUKE 2:4 - 14**



<sup>12</sup> This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn Baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.”  
<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in heaven, **and on EARTH PEACE AMONG THOSE WHOM HE FAVORS.**”

**LUKE 2:4 - 14**



What is **peace**  
and why do we  
long for it?



WHY DO WE LONG FOR PEACE?

1. We lost it.



2. What peace  
isn't?



## 2. WHAT PEACE ISN'T?

– A generic greeting.



## 2. WHAT PEACE ISN'T?

- A generic greeting.
- Ceasefire.



## 2. WHAT PEACE ISN'T?

- A generic greeting.
- Ceasefire.
- Not simplistic.



## 2. WHAT PEACE ISN'T?

**SIMPLICITY** does NOT  
guarantee PEACE!

**COMPLEXITY** IS NOT  
synonymous with CHAOS.





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3. Peace is a  
Person.



3. PEACE IS A PERSON.

— Jesus is our peace.



<sup>14</sup> For HE HIMSELF IS OUR PEACE, who has made us both one and has **broken down in His flesh** the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

EPHESIANS 2:14-15



<sup>16</sup> and might **reconcile us both to God** in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And He **CAME AND PREACHED PEACE** to you who were far off **AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR.**

EPHESIANS 2:14-17



<sup>16</sup> Now may the **LORD OF PEACE** Himself  
give you **peace** at all times in **EVERY** way.  
The Lord be with you all.

**2 THESSALONIANS 3:16**



### 3. PEACE IS A PERSON.

- Jesus is our peace.
- **He** made peace.



### 3. PEACE IS A PERSON.

- Jesus is our peace.
- He made peace.
- Peace is purposeful.



PEACE IS PURPOSEFUL.

– It is defensive.



<sup>7</sup> And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will **GUARD [GARRISON AGAINST A SIEGE]**, your hearts and your minds in **Christ Jesus**.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7



PEACE IS PURPOSEFUL.

- It is defensive.
- It is offensive.



<sup>20</sup> The God of peace will soon **CRUSH** Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ROMANS 16:20



“Man is not at peace with his fellow man because he is not at peace with himself; he is not at peace with himself, because he is not at peace with God.”

— THOMAS MERTON

 mercy commons  
A  
BETTER  
CHRISTMAS?



