

Peace on earth?

Was Christ successful in bringing peace to earth? Did he aim at bringing peace among the nations, religious sects and denominations, or individuals? If we look there for the peace declared by the angels who announced Christ's birth, we are looking in the wrong place. Christ said: "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."

Christ's coming brought division and difficulties. Those who followed Him were disowned, rejected, and persecuted in the first, and all succeeding centuries. In the twentieth century there were more Christians killed because of their faith than in all the first nineteen centuries combined.

Where is the peace that the angels said was coming when they sang on the early morning of His birth? To know the peace that they declared, we need to know the whole of their song. It is this: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased!"

More questions immediately arise. Who are those with whom God is well pleased? Those who please God are those who receive Christ as God's promised Deliverer. Who are such people? They are those who give themselves to Christ in trusting Him to make their peace with God, and live according to His direction. Peace with God is the most important place where you need peace. There is a saying: "Be careful how you choose your enemies." If you are not at peace with God through Christ, then by default, you have God for your enemy. Christ said: "He who is not with Me is against Me."

The peace the angels sang about is not simply a neutral kind of mutual toleration until the next round of hostilities. Peace with God, through Christ, means that God is free to exercise His benevolent nature, and adopt you as His true child. That makes you an heir to all He has promised.

You can rejoice in the peace Christ brought if you turn from rebellion and give your loyalty and obedience to Him. Only then you will find and enjoy the peace the angels promised.