

“Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men”

Romans 8:18-22

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Today, there is no *“peace on earth, goodwill to men”*
- But one day, when Jesus Christ establishes His kingdom here on earth, there will be *“peace on earth, goodwill to men”*

“Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men”-- Four Factors

A. The Majority of Men will be Christ Followers.

1. **Only “born again” individuals will enter the Kingdom.**
 - John 3:3-- *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
2. **What about children born during the kingdom age?**
 - a. Those with glorified bodies will not marry and thus will not procreate in the kingdom.
 - Matthew 22:28-30-- *“Whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had her!” Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.”*
 - b. Those who enter the kingdom in mortal bodies will marry and procreate.
 - 1) Children born during this time will have the same Adamic nature; born sinners in need of a Savior. They will not automatically be “Christians”.
 - 2) They will be born in a perfect conditions
 - a) Saved parents
 - b) Jesus Christ ruling on earth, promoting what is moral and good
 - c) Satan and his angels imprisoned
 - 3) They will have at least 100 years to make their decision regarding Christ.
 - Isaiah 65:20-- *“No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.”*
3. **The vast majority will also be filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit, exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit.**

B. Jesus Christ will be ruling the world in righteousness, holiness, and truth

1. **Jesus Christ will rule over the world in righteousness.** He will do what is right and proper; Judge according to what is right and proper; and will hold Himself and the world to the same standard.
 - Isaiah 51:4-- *“Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, and I will make My justice rest as a light of the peoples.”*
 - Isaiah 11:4-5-- *“But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.”*
2. **Jesus Christ will rule the world in holiness.** Everything in the kingdom will be set apart as special or holy to the Lord.
 - Psalm 47:7-8-- *“For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.”*

- Joel 3:17-- *"So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."*
- Zechariah 14:20-21-- *"In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts. Everyone who sacrifices shall come and take them and cook in them. In that day there shall no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts."*

3. **Jesus Christ will also reign in truth.**

- Isaiah 16:5-- *"In mercy the throne will be established; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness."*

C. The Curse upon mankind and creation will be partially lifted by God thus creating a more perfect environment in which to live and work.

- Romans 8:18-22-- *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body."*

1. **The whole creation is groaning as it were in childbirth.**

2. **It is groaning in pain for three reasons:**

- Romans 8:20-21-- *"For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."*

a. **Because it is subject to futility or frustration.**

- Genesis 3:17-- *"Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field."*

b. **Because it is in bondage to decay or corruption.**

- 1) Seen in the natural world today-- things die
- 2) Very evident during the tribulation period when God pours out the trumpet and bowl judgments on the earth. Creation will be screaming in pain!!!

c. **Because it longs for the day of liberation!**

- Romans 8:21-- *"because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."*

1) **"Liberation" occurs when the "Sons of God are revealed".**

- Romans 8:19-- *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God."*

2) **Creation will finally come into its own and reach its full potential**

3. **The results of "liberation"**

a. **The dessert and wastelands will bloom.**

- Isaiah 35:1-2a-- *"The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing."*
- Isaiah 35:6-7-- *"Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the*

thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes."

- Zechariah 8:12-- *"For the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew — I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these."*

b. The animal world and mankind will be at peace.

- Isaiah 11:6-9-- *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea."*

c. Human disease will be a thing of the past.

- Isaiah 33:24-- *"No one living in Zion will say, 'I am ill.'"*
- Jeremiah 30:17-- *"For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds."*
- Isaiah 35:5-6a-- *"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing."*

D. Men will be at peace WITH God, and thus peace with one another.

1. The vast majority will be at peace with God.

- Romans 5:8-11-- *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation."*

2. The vast majority will be at peace with one another

a. Jesus Christ, the Prince of peace, will bring peace to the nations.

- Isaiah 2:4-- *"He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."*

b. The great war machines of nations will be dismantled and resources used for domestic purposes.

c. There will be universal peace here on earth

- Zechariah 9:10-- *"will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; The battle bow shall be cut off. He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be "from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth."*

Applications:

1. Today there is no "peace on earth, goodwill to men"
2. You and I can have peace in the midst of the storms of life.
 - Philippians 4:7-- *"the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!"*
 - John 14:7-- *"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*
3. We cannot know the incredible peace OF God until we are at peace WITH God!
4. While there might not be "peace on earth, goodwill to men" in this world, there can be peace in our hearts and lives resulting in goodwill toward men.