

Casting Peace Upon the Earth

Thomas Robinson, Advent 2, December 7, 2014

Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days a decree went out from **Caesar Augustus** that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the **time came for her to give birth**. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a **manger** (feed trough), because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were **shepherds** out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an **angel of the Lord** appeared to them, and the **glory of the Lord** shone around them, and they were filled with great **fear**. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them,

*"Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good news of great joy** that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a **Savior, who is Messiah, Lord.***

*¹² And this will be the sign for you: you will find a **baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.**"*

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

*¹⁴ "**Glory to God** in the highest,
and **on earth peace** among people, focus of his favor!"*

Matthew 10:34-39

³⁴ **"Do not think that I came to cast peace upon the earth.** I have not come to cast **peace**, but a **sword**. ³⁵ For I have come to divide – 'a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. ³⁶ And the person's enemies will be those of their own household' [Micah 7:6].

³⁷ Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. ³⁸ And **whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** ³⁹ **Whoever has found his life/soul will lose it, and whoever has lost his life/soul for my sake will find it."**

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:34-35 When Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple

³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed– and a sword will pass through your own life/soul too."

Luke 19:38, 41-42 Jesus approaches the city of Jerusalem and the Temple

³⁸ [The people were] saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ... ⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you had known on this day, even you, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

John 16:33

³³ "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

From Augustus to a Feed Trough

The Gospel always seeks to open our eyes, renew our minds, to help us see the truth that the world at its deepest, most important level is far different from what we're often told.

Advent is the story of a "coming," an invasion of a baby, a heavenly army, a new/old story, a new paradigm of reality. It's a story that's exhilarating, depressing, tender, horrific, full of symbolic elements and gritty reality. It challenges us to look and listen.

We start with the song of the invading angel army: "*Peace on Earth...*" "*Great joy for all people.*" We set those words beside Jesus' surprising warning: "*Don't think that I came to cast peace on the earth....*" Both are given to us. What's going on? What can we see?

Luke's narrative from the very beginning challenges us readers to see the paradox of events.

Place yourself back in the Roman world of the 1st cent. when Luke first was read. You didn't grow up with Christmas carols but with public celebrations of the emperor.

"Caesar Augustus" was past like Lincoln, if Lincoln had served 12 4-year terms, and died in office. He was the great peace-maker, benefactor, savior, god, origin of "Good News."

Here he defines one of two contrasting stories: The Roman controllers, taxers, governors, who can send everyone scurrying. Power, money, violence. All the stuff we love to celebrate in our movies. All the stuff that's real, that really matters. Or is it unreal and passing?

Then the other story: Joseph and Mary, betrothed, 9 months pregnant, scurrying to pay tax in a village on the edge of empire, Bethlehem. The baby comes, the anticipated son (Lk 1). She wraps him tight and lays him in a feed trough, the best available cradle.

God breaks in with his Good News, not to Caesar but to shepherds. The world's Savior is born, the anointed king, the Lord. His sign is the feed trough where he lies as a baby. A vast angelic army breaks in, singing God's glory and Peace for people because God favors them.

What is Peace?

Peace is a challenge. It's the end of conflict/war. That's hard, perhaps impossible. It's people getting along, respecting each other, treating each other fairly, honorably. It's *Shalom*, wholeness, when people are true to God, caring for their neighbor, creating justice. It's a fruit of the Spirit, a deep God-given reality, peace that passes understanding, guarding us.

But "Peace" is also a human word that's slippery and deceptive. We want peace in our family our way, peace with in-laws, peace in our group allied with Roman power, or peace in our group – our own "we" – fighting fiercely against the Romans. We are defined against them. We have our stories in which we are peace-makers. Someone else is the cause of trouble.

Jesus warns his disciples that he's casting a sword, slicing through that world. Cutting through natural structures (Micah), calling to a new love! "*Whoever doesn't take up... the sword(?) ... his cross*"! That baby in the feed trough was the sword. He disturbs, messes up the order and identity of our lives. If you've already got it, you'll lose it. But if you've lost your life, your identity, your us vs. them, your base of security and power for his sake, you will find it!

We live in a world of trouble. It matters whether you live in the story of Augustus or of the baby in the feed trough. Every good structure, good relationship is also corruptible. Again and again we are called to self-giving love, to take up not the sword but the cross, to create the way of peace, with equity, honor, love. We are called to live the story of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-14 – Casting Peace Upon the Earth

- ¹ Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις
ἐξῆλθεν δόγμα παρὰ Καίσαρος Αὐγούστου
ἀπογράφεσθαι πᾶσαν τὴν οἰκουμένην.
- ² αὕτη ἀπογραφή πρώτη ἐγένετο
ἡγεμονεύοντος τῆς Συρίας Κυρηναίου.
- ³ καὶ ἐπορεύοντο πάντες ἀπογράφεσθαι,
ἕκαστος εἰς τὴν ἑαυτοῦ πόλιν.
- ⁴ Ἀνέβη δὲ καὶ Ἰωσήφ
ἀπὸ τῆς Γαλιλαίας ἐκ πόλεως Ναζαρέθ
εἰς τὴν Ἰουδαίαν
εἰς πόλιν Δαυὶδ ἣτις καλεῖται Βηθλέεμ,
διὰ τὸ εἶναι αὐτὸν ἐξ οἴκου καὶ πατριᾶς Δαυίδ,
- ⁵ ἀπογράψασθαι σὺν Μαριὰμ τῇ ἐμνηστευμένη αὐτῷ,
οὔσῃ ἐγκύῳ.
- ⁶ Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ εἶναι αὐτοὺς ἐκεῖ
ἐπλήσθησαν αἱ ἡμέραι τοῦ τεκεῖν αὐτήν,
- ⁷ καὶ ἔτεκεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον,
καὶ ἐσπαργάνωσεν αὐτὸν
καὶ ἀνέκλινεν αὐτὸν ἐν φάτινι,
διότι οὐκ ἦν αὐτοῖς τόπος ἐν τῷ καταλύματι.
- ⁸ Καὶ ποιμένες ἦσαν ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ τῇ αὐτῇ ἀγραυλοῦντες
καὶ φυλάσσοντες φυλακὰς τῆς νυκτὸς ἐπὶ τὴν ποιμνὴν αὐτῶν.
- ⁹ καὶ ἄγγελος κυρίου ἐπέστη αὐτοῖς
καὶ δόξα κυρίου περιέλαμψεν αὐτούς,
καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν φόβον μέγαν.

- ¹⁰ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ ἄγγελος·
μὴ φοβεῖσθε,
ἰδοὺ γὰρ εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν χαρὰν μεγάλην
ἣτις ἔσται παντὶ τῷ λαῷ,
¹¹ ὅτι ἐτέχθη ὑμῖν σήμερον σωτὴρ
ὃς ἐστὶν χριστὸς κύριος
ἐν πόλει Δαυίδ.
- ¹² καὶ τοῦτο ὑμῖν τὸ σημεῖον,
εὐρήσετε βρέφος ἐσπαργανωμένον
καὶ κείμενον ἐν φάτνῃ.
- ¹³ καὶ ἐξαίφνης ἐγένετο σὺν τῷ ἀγγέλῳ
πλήθος στρατιᾶς οὐρανοῦ
αἰνούντων τὸν θεὸν καὶ λεγόντων·
- ¹⁴ δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῷ
καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκίας.

Matthew 10:34-39

²⁴ Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον
βαλεῖν εἰρήνην ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν·
οὐκ ἦλθον βαλεῖν εἰρήνην ἀλλὰ μάχαιραν.

³⁵ ἦλθον γὰρ διχάσαι
ἄνθρωπον κατὰ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ
καὶ θυγατέρα κατὰ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτῆς
καὶ νύμφην κατὰ τῆς πενθερᾶς αὐτῆς,

³⁶ καὶ ἐχθροὶ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οἱ οἰκιακοὶ αὐτοῦ.

³⁷ Ὁ φιλῶν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ
οὐκ ἔστιν μου ἄξιος,
καὶ ὁ φιλῶν υἱὸν ἢ θυγατέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ
οὐκ ἔστιν μου ἄξιος·

³⁸ καὶ ὃς οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου,
οὐκ ἔστιν μου ἄξιος.

³⁹ ὁ εὐρῶν τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ
ἀπολέσει αὐτήν,
καὶ ὁ ἀπολέσας τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ
εὐρήσει αὐτήν.

John 16:33

³³ ταῦτα λελάληκα ὑμῖν ἵνα ἐν ἐμοὶ εἰρήνην ἔχητε.
ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ θλίψιν ἔχετε·
ἀλλὰ θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ νενίκηκα τὸν κόσμον·.

Isaiah 9:5 ὅτι παιδίον ἐγεννήθη ἡμῖν υἱὸς καὶ ἐδόθη ἡμῖν οὗ ἡ ἀρχὴ ἐγενήθη ἐπὶ τοῦ ὤμου αὐτοῦ καὶ καλεῖται τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ μεγάλης βουλήs ἄγγελος ἐγὼ γὰρ ἄξω εἰρήνην ἐπὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντας εἰρήνην καὶ ὑγίειαν αὐτῶ

ESV **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

כִּי־יֵלֵד יֵלֶד־לָנוּ בֶן נִתֵן־לָנוּ וְתָהִי הַמְּשָׁרָה
עַל־שִׁכְמוֹ וַיִּקְרָא שְׁמוֹ פֶּלֶא יוֹעֵץ אֵל גִּבּוֹר אָבִיעַד
שֶׁר־שָׁלוֹם: WTT Isaiah 9:5

Isaiah 52:7 ὡς ὥρα ἐπὶ τῶν ὀρέων ὡς πόδες εὐαγγελιζομένου ἀκοὴν εἰρήνης ὡς εὐαγγελιζόμενος ἀγαθὰ ὅτι ἀκουστὴν ποιήσω τὴν σωτηρίαν σου λέγων Σιων βασιλεύσει σου ὁ θεός

ESV **Isaiah 52:7** How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

מֵה־נְאוֹן עַל־הַהָרִים רַגְלֵי מְבַשֵּׂר מִשְׁמִיעַ
שָׁלוֹם מְבַשֵּׂר טוֹב מִשְׁמִיעַ יְשׁוּעָה אֹמֵר לְצִיּוֹן מִלֶּדֶךָ
אֵלֶּהֶיךָ: WTT Isaiah 52:7

Isaiah 53:5 αὐτὸς δὲ ἐτραυματίσθη διὰ τὰς ἀνομίας ἡμῶν καὶ μεμαλάκισται διὰ τὰς ἀμαρτίας ἡμῶν παιδεία εἰρήνης ἡμῶν ἐπ' αὐτόν τῶ μώλωπι αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς ἰάθημεν

ESV **Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

וְהוּא מְחַלֵּל מִפְּשָׁעֵינוּ מְדַכָּא מֵעוֹנֹתֵינוּ
מוֹסֵר שְׁלוֹמֵנוּ עָלָיו וּבַחֲבַרְתּוֹ נִרְפָּא־לָנוּ: WTT Isaiah 53:5

Isaiah 54:10 τὰ ὄρη μεταστήσεσθαι οὐδὲ οἱ βουνοὶ σου μετακινήθουσιν οὕτως οὐδὲ τὸ παρ' ἐμοῦ σοι ἔλεος ἐκλείψει οὐδὲ ἡ διαθήκη τῆς εἰρήνης σου οὐ μὴ μεταστῆ εἶπεν γὰρ κύριος ἰλεώς σοι

^{ESV} **Isaiah 54:10** For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

כִּי הַהָרִים יִמְּשֻׁוּ וְהַגְּבוּעוֹת תִּמְּוֹטְנָה ^{WTT} **Isaiah 54:10**
וְחֶסְדִּי מֵאַתָּה לֹא יִמְּשָׁל וּבְרִית שְׁלוֹמִי לֹא תִמָּוֵט אָמֵן

מְרַחֵם יְהוָה: ם

Romans 14:17 οὐ γάρ ἐστιν ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ βρώσις καὶ πόσις ἀλλὰ δικαιοσύνη καὶ εἰρήνη καὶ χαρὰ ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ. ¹⁸ ὁ γὰρ ἐν τούτῳ δουλεύων τῷ Χριστῷ εὐάρεστος τῷ θεῷ καὶ δόκιμος τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. ¹⁹ Ἄρα οὖν τὰ τῆς εἰρήνης διώκωμεν καὶ τὰ τῆς οἰκοδομῆς τῆς εἰς ἀλλήλους.

^{ESV} **Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

^{NRS} **Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. ¹⁹ Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.

Philippians 4:5 τὸ ἐπιεικὲς ὑμῶν γνωσθήτω πᾶσιν ἀνθρώποις. ὁ κύριος ἐγγύς. ⁶ μηδὲν μεριμνᾶτε, ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ δεήσει μετὰ εὐχαριστίας τὰ αἰτήματα ὑμῶν γνωρίζεσθω πρὸς τὸν θεόν. ⁷ καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη τοῦ θεοῦ ἣ ὑπερέχουσα πάντα νοῦν φρουρήσει τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν καὶ τὰ νοήματα ὑμῶν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

^{ESV} **Philippians 4:5** Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

^{NRS} **Philippians 4:5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 19:37 ἐγγίζοντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἤδη πρὸς τῆ καταβάσει τοῦ ὄρους τῶν ἐλαιῶν ἤρξαντο ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν χαίροντες αἰνεῖν τὸν θεὸν φωνῇ μεγάλῃ περὶ πασῶν ὧν εἶδον δυνάμεων, ³⁸ λέγοντες· εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐν ὀνόματι κυρίου· ἐν οὐρανῷ εἰρήνη καὶ δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις. ³⁹ καὶ τινες τῶν Φαρισαίων ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου εἶπαν πρὸς αὐτόν· διδάσκαλε, ἐπιτίμησον τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου. ⁴⁰ καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν· λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐὰν οὗτοι σιωπήσουσιν, οἱ λίθοι κρᾶξουσιν. ⁴¹ Καὶ ὡς ἤγγισεν ἰδὼν τὴν πόλιν ἔκλαυσεν ἐπ' αὐτήν ⁴² λέγων ὅτι εἰ ἔγνωσ ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ταύτῃ καὶ σὺ τὰ πρὸς εἰρήνην· νῦν δὲ ἐκρύβη ἀπὸ ὀφθαλμῶν σου.

^{ESV} **Luke 19:37** As he was drawing near-- already on the way down the Mount of Olives-- the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out." ⁴¹ And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, ⁴² saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

Luke 2:34 καὶ εὐλόγησεν αὐτοὺς Συμεὼν καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς Μαριὰμ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ· ἰδοὺ οὗτος κείται εἰς πτώσιν καὶ ἀνάστασιν πολλῶν ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ καὶ εἰς σημεῖον ἀντιλεγόμενον- ³⁵ καὶ σοῦ [δὲ] αὐτῆς τὴν ψυχὴν διελεύσεται ῥομφαία- ὅπως ἂν ἀποκαλυφθῶσιν ἐκ πολλῶν καρδιῶν διαλογισμοί.

^{ESV} **Luke 2:34** And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

^{NRS} **Luke 2:34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 2:21-32

²¹ Καὶ ὅτε ἐπλήσθησαν ἡμέραι ὀκτὼ τοῦ περιτεμεῖν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐκλήθη τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦς, τὸ κληθῆν ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀγγέλου πρὸ τοῦ συλλημφθῆναι αὐτὸν ἐν τῇ κοιλίᾳ. ²² Καὶ ὅτε ἐπλήσθησαν αἱ ἡμέραι τοῦ καθαρισμοῦ αὐτῶν κατὰ τὸν νόμον Μωϋσέως, ἀνήγαγον αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα παραστήσαι τῷ κυρίῳ, ²³ καθὼς γέγραπται ἐν νόμῳ κυρίου ὅτι πᾶν ἄρσεν διανοίγον μήτραν ἅγιον τῷ κυρίῳ κληθήσεται, ²⁴ καὶ τοῦ δοῦναι θυσίαν κατὰ τὸ εἰρημένον ἐν τῷ νόμῳ κυρίου, ζεῦγος τρυγόνων ἢ δύο νοσσοὺς περιστερῶν. ²⁵ Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄνθρωπος ἦν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ ᾧ ὄνομα Συμεὼν καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος δίκαιος καὶ εὐλαβῆς προσδεχόμενος παράκλησιν τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, καὶ πνεῦμα ἦν ἅγιον ἐπ' αὐτόν. ²⁶ καὶ ἦν αὐτῷ κεχρηματισμένος ὑπὸ τοῦ πνεύματος τοῦ ἁγίου μὴ ἰδεῖν θάνατον πρὶν [ἦ] ἂν ἴδῃ τὸν χριστὸν κυρίου. ²⁷ καὶ ἦλθεν ἐν τῷ πνεύματι εἰς τὸ ἱερόν· καὶ ἐν τῷ εἰσαγαγεῖν τοὺς γονεῖς τὸ παιδίον Ἰησοῦν τοῦ ποιῆσαι αὐτοὺς κατὰ τὸ εἰθισμένον τοῦ νόμου περὶ αὐτοῦ ²⁸ καὶ αὐτὸς ἐδέξατο αὐτὸ εἰς τὰς ἀγκάλας καὶ εὐλόγησεν τὸν θεὸν καὶ εἶπεν· ²⁹ νῦν ἀπολύεις τὸν δοῦλόν σου, δέσποτα, κατὰ τὸ ῥῆμά σου ἐν εἰρήνῃ· ³⁰ ὅτι εἶδον οἱ ὀφθαλμοί μου τὸ σωτήριόν σου, ³¹ ὃ ἤτοιμάσας κατὰ πρόσωπον πάντων τῶν λαῶν, ³² φῶς εἰς ἀποκάλυψιν ἐθνῶν καὶ δόξαν λαοῦ σου Ἰσραήλ.

ESV Luke 2:21-32

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

ESV **Isaiah 9:6**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ESV **Isaiah 52:7**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

ESV **Isaiah 53:5**

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 59:7-9

Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; desolation and destruction are in their highways. ⁸ The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths; they have made their roads crooked; no one who treads on them knows peace. ⁹ Therefore justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us; we hope for light, and behold, darkness, and for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

Luke 1:76-79

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Augustus Inscription from Priene (9 bc celebrating the Birthday of Augustus)

"Divine providence ... has displayed extraordinary concern and compassion and crowned our life with perfection itself. It has brought into the world Augustus and filled him with virtue for the benefit of mankind. It has sent him as a Savior for us and our descendants, who makes war to cease and brings good order to all things. The epiphany of Caesar has brought to fulfillment all our past hopes and dreams. ... The birthday of the god marked the beginning of Good news because of him for the world."