

**The Peace and Sword of Christ's Coming**  
Jerry Cisar — December 24, 2017 (Morning)

Text: Isaiah 9:5-7 & Matthew 2:1-18

**Introduction – Isaiah 9:5-7**

A. What is the cause of this peace? *A child born, a son given, upon whom the government will be built.*

B. The surprising sword of Christ's coming (Matthew 10:34)

**LIVE THE STORY**

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.  
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- What does it mean to say that the gospel is an announcement, or a proclamation rather than merely an invitation?
- In light of the prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7, what might surprise us about the story of Christ's birth?
- What “crime” did the children in the vicinity of Bethlehem commit for which they were killed by Herod's soldiers?
- Why are people threatened by the rule of Christ?
- How does the Incarnation picture the peace of the gospel? How does Christ set out to make peace between us and God?
- How does the peace which Christ brings involve each of Jesus' disciples in order to be manifest in the world? What are the ways we are called to bring peace?
- Are your ways, the way you operate when offended, the way you deal with those who are your enemies, the way you grasp for power, more like the ways of Herod (or earthly powers), or more like Jesus?
- What are some of the ways in which Christians can be prone to follow the ways of Herod rather than the ways of Christ? How about you?

**I. The Sword of Christ's Coming (Matthew 2:1-18)**

A. Christ's coming to rule, was a threat to Herod and his throne.  
i. Herod

ii. All of Jerusalem

*Anytime peace comes to a society, it opposes those who are disturbing that peace.*

iii. Luke 1:52-53

- B. Herod takes action to have this threat eliminated.
  - i. Herod secretly plots the murder of Jesus (v7-8).
  - ii. The killing in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

## II. The Peace of Christ's Coming

- A. The peace of Christ's coming begins with the announcement of His reign.
  - i. According to Colossians 1:20 and Ephesians 1:10, Christ's reign is about reconciling the rift between heaven and earth. Bringing everything back together again.
  - ii. Isaiah 64:1

*In the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, God and creation come back together, in order that they might be reconciled with each other.*

- B. The peace of Christ comes through the forgiveness of sins.
  - i. Colossians 1:21-22
  - ii. Colossians 1:13-14
- C. The peace of Christ comes as His disciples (us) are transformed into the likeness of the King.
  - i. Isaiah's picture of a child-king: this is an image of *innocence-ruling, of upside-down power.*

- ii. Matt. 5:39-47
- iii. Romans 5:1; 12:18-21
- iv. Philippians 2:3-4
- v. Ephesians 4:2-3, 31 – 5:2

- D. To put it another way: The Peace of Christ's Kingdom will not come if His followers follow the ways of Herod, but only as we follow the ways of the Lamb.

## III. The Sword You Face

- A. What was the only crime the infant boys of Bethlehem committed for which they were killed by Herod's sword?
- B. If the Herod's of the world are coming to look for Jesus in order to kill Him, will they find you?