



**“Proclaim the Glory of the Lord
in Turbulent Times”
December 4, 2022
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INTRODUCTION

Can anyone doubt these are turbulent days in which to live? Are these days unique or has there been other times in history when the turbulence of a fallen world makes one feel as if humanity is on the precipice of collapse? Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine are in turbulent times. However, they have observed that these are days similar to the times of Stalin in 1932-33. That despot sought to destroy them by starvation - indeed 3.5 million Ukrainians died in the great famine, known as the Holodomor, or death by hunger. The parallels with the current turbulent days are unmistakable. Now the people die with cold and lack of basic necessities as Putin tires to obliterate Ukraine in a destructive barrage of armaments. This is the peril of living in a fallen world under the attack of Satan and his minions whom Jesus alludes to as the ones who come as the thief “to steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10). Countering that bad news is the Good News where Jesus proclaims in that same verse, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” God’s plan is always to enter the turmoil of a fallen world and to both make and offer His peace. This we see in our study of Luke 2:1-14.

FOCUS – In the turmoil of life, realize that the Prince of Peace has come and came to give us His peace.

FIRST OBSERVATION

I. Turbulent times requiring peace Luke 2: 1-7

A. Politically - a time of terrible tyranny.

B. Spiritually - a time of spiritual corruption

C. Culturally - a time of hatred and prejudice

D. Morally corrupt - a time of moral degeneration

Follow-up
thoughts to
explore later.

John 10:10

2 Tim. 3:1-5

Rom. 13:11

John 14:27
John 16:33

SECOND OBSERVATION

II. Turbulent lives needing peace Luke 2: 8

A. *Environment in which they lived*

B. *Difficult lives they lived*

John
10:11,15

THIRD OBSERVATION

III. Triumphant announcement proclaiming peace Luke 2: 9-14

A. A message of great joy (Lk 2:9-10)

"I bring you tidings of great joy"

B. A message of great deliverance (2:11)

"there is born to you this day...a savior"

C. A message of great surprise (2:12)

"a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

D. A message of great peace (2:13-14)

"on earth peace, goodwill toward men"

John 14:3

Philippians
4:7

E. A message generating a great response (2:15-20)

"they made known the saying... concerning this child."

FURTHER REFLECTION OR ACTION

1. Is there someone in your turbulent world that needs to hear a message that a savior has come to offer peace to them that the world cannot offer? How about not just sending a card at Christmas but some hope.
2. Can you be the hands and feet of Christ to touch someone who is in need of tangible help right now? Read James 2:14-20 and ask, "How can I show my faith with the way I use my tongue, talents, treasure, or time in this Christmas season?" There is plenty of turmoil you can enter into in this fallen world reflecting the mission of Jesus.
3. What one thing about the shepherds could be an example for you to emulate as you connect with people this Christmas? Keep a shepherds' staff near the Christmas decorations and let remind you that Jesus is the great shepherd of the sheep. Also remind yourself to give praise to God that he not only came into the world to save us but to "give us life and give it more abundantly."

James 2:14-
20