

## Christmas Awaits

Peace is Waiting

Psalm 122

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December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Christmas is IDEALISTIC – On day where we live expressing LOVE and JOY without WORRY or FEAR.  
Advent is REALISTIC – Where we live with the knowledge that our LONGINGS yet to be REALIZED.

The Psalms of Ascent:

- Psalm 120 is the psalm of REPENTANCE
- Psalm 121 is the psalm of TRUST
- Psalm 122 is the psalm of WORSHIP

In Psalm 122 Peace is:

- Right relationship with God
- Right ordering of community
- Right administration of justice

**PEACE BEGINS WITH GOD'S DWELLING, NOT HUMAN EFFORT** - Peace does not begin inside the pilgrim's heart; it begins with God choosing to dwell among his people.

**JERUSALEM REPRESENTS PEACE AS ORDER, UNITY, AND JUSTICE** - Peace (shalom) is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of wholeness, order, and flourishing. Conditions that can only emerge where righteousness governs and wrongs are rightly addressed.

**WORSHIP REORIENTS OUR BODIES AND INWARDLY REORIENTS OUR LOVES** - This pattern runs throughout Scripture:

- Worship recalibrates desire
- Disordered loves produce anxiety and violence
- Ordered worship produces peace

**FROM: Psalm 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let's go to the house of the LORD."**

**TO: Luke 2:15 "Let's go straight to Bethlehem and see what has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."**

Jesus is the BETTER Jerusalem. The peace of Jerusalem becomes Personal, Powerful, Transcendent.  
Jesus is the BETTER Temple. The presence of God becomes Tangible, Reliable, Embodied.

Psalm 122 – Peace accomplished NOT in the ASCENT of Pilgrims but the DESCENT of Christ:

- He replaces the Temple **John 2:21 CSB he was speaking about the temple of his body.**
- He reconciles heaven and earth **Colossians 1:20 CSB and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**
- He is our peace **Ephesians 2:13-14 CSB - 13 But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility.**

**Date: Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Series: Christmas Awaits**

**Title: Peace Awaits**

**Primary Passage: Psalm 122**

**Secondary Passage: Luke 2:13-15**

**Big Question: How is peace attained?**

**Big Idea: Peace is not something we manufacture to bring into worship. Peace is something God gives when we worship rightly, because in worship we encounter the God of peace made flesh.**

**Keywords: Advent, Idealism, Realism, Worship, Peace, Jerusalem, Temple, Ascent, Descent.**

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### **GOING DEEPER – Life Application Questions**

What is the one thing that most unsettles your peace—and why? When you think about this season, what do you discern as the greatest obstacle to living in Christ's peace?

Psalm 122 teaches that peace starts not inside us, but with God choosing to dwell among His people. Where do you tend to look for peace apart from the presence of God? What practices (Scripture, prayer, worship, Sabbath) re-anchor you in the reality that Christ Himself is your peace?

Which competing loves (comfort, control, productivity, approval) most often disorder your inner life and steal peace? How might you intentionally practice worship this week in a way that recalibrates those desires?

Shalom is not merely feeling calm. It is wholeness expressed in right relationship with God, right ordering of community, and right judgment. Where is God inviting you to pursue peace not just personally, but relationally or socially? Is there a relationship to mend, a forgiveness to extend, or a situation where you need to advocate for what is right?

Peace is not ultimately accomplished through our ascent to God, but through Christ's descent to us. How does this reshape the way you think about spiritual effort, expectation, or disappointment? Where might you still be trying to "climb your way" into peace rather than receiving it as a gift of grace?

Psalm 122 begins with, "Let us go to the house of the Lord," and the Christmas story echoes, "Let us go to Bethlehem." Who is God calling you to walk with on your journey toward Christ this Advent? How can you help cultivate peace (unity, encouragement, shared worship) in the community around you?