

BETHLEHEM-PEACE FOR CHRISTMAS Mic. 5:2-5a; Lk 2:1-7 12-20-15

What are conditions like for God's people when Micah brings God's Word?

How are we in a similar situation today?

1. WHEN OUR WORLD IS DIVIDED

*** Terror and War**

- ~ Our world reels in grief ... Country in shock: lost life & security
- ~ Our inner world of driving motives: Angry -Bitter -Rage -Malicious

*** Fear and Hopelessness**

- ~ Gripped by fear, mourn victims of terrorist attacks; Scared & insecure!
- ~ We sense unkind & nasty are only degrees from treachery & terror!
- ~ Try to calm fears with talk of peace, but it's hopeless

How can we celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace while world is warring?

2. GOD COMES WITH PEACE

*** Purpose In God's Plan**

- ~ Eden's Garden of Peace
- ~ Israel & nations *The Lord turn his face toward you & give you his peace.*
- ~ Still God's plan in today's world interacting with terror & fear.
- ~ Angels: *"on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

*** Person Who Is PEACE**

- ~ Jesus comes to us in peace & speaks peace.

Jn 16:33 *I tell you these things so that in me you may have peace.*

Jn 14:27 *Peace I leave w/ you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled & do not be afraid.*

Rom.5:1 *Since we have been justified thru faith, we have peace w/ God thru Jesus*

Eph.2:14 *He is our peace -made 2 groups 1& destroyed the dividing wall of hostility*