God's Glory, Our Peace

Micah 5:1-5a; Luke 2:1-7

In this Advent, Christmas season how do we find peace. How can we be instruments of peace to those around us?

Bethlehem: The Prophecy (Micah 5:1-5a)

A. Near distress (vs. 1)

King Hezekiah vs. King Sennacherib.

- B. Future deliverance (vs. 2-5a)
 - <u>8 Characteristics</u> of this powerful, Messianic ruler:
 - 1. Born in Bethlehem

Matthew 2:6

Out of seeming littleness and weakness, God has perfected strength 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

- 2. "come for me"
- 3. "ruler over Israel"
- 4. "whose origins are from of old, ancient times"
 - a) reference to tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10), or line of David
 - b) reference to his deity

The Messiah's mission was hatched in eternity past because he existed in eternity past.

- 5. "Israel abandoned until the time she bears a son"
- 6. "He will stand"
- 7. "He will shepherd his flock"

Psalm 78:70-72

Psalm 2:6-8

8. "He will be our peace"

Our Peace

A. Peace with God (positional peace)

Eph. 2:13-14 Rom. 5:1

B. Peace with Ourselves (experiential peace) -

Phil. 4:4-7 – 4 commands, 1 result

Isaiah 26:3

C. Peace with Others (relational peace) -

Eph. 2:14-15 Rom. 12:18

Bethlehem: The Fulfillment (Luke 2:1-7)

A. The historical setting (vs. 1-5)

Caesar Augustus

Decree – a census taken of the entire Roman world so Joseph went up from Nazareth (Galilee) to Bethlehem (Judea)"

"because he belonged to the house and line of David "

B. The birth (vs. 6-7)

She gave birth

"No guest room available "

In what ways have you found peace during the Christmas season?

Even if Christ were born in Bethlehem a thousand times, but not within you, you would be eternally lost.