

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST LK. 2:14

READ ? LK. 2:1-20 (14)

**"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased."**

INTRO:

- **Is it not interesting to notice the great interest which angels have taken in our humanity? (vs 13 & 14)**
 - **And the writer of Hebrews when speaking of angels in chap. 1:14 says; Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**
- **The angels with this proclamation fulfill their ministry not only to God but also to the inheritors of this grace and peace.**
- **What great joy and excitement the angels express regarding this miraculous event. What tremendous joy, what great celebrations break forth from them, and why? (1 Ptr. 1:18, 1 Tim. 3:16)**
- **They see and recognize their eternal God in human form, This Babe would not give His life for the angel race but for ours, His,**
 - **Heb. 2:16; For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.**
- **Now let's look closer at the wording of this verse;**
- **The word "toward" is not the best translation and it would be better written, "among."**
 - **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." (NASB)**
 - **NIV "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."**
- **Notice also this peace is among those with whom God is pleased.**
- **The angels proclaim, "glory to God in the highest."**
- **The term "the highest" or the heavens, does not signify some degree, but of location "the heavens."**
- **This location, "the highest," is in contrast to; peace "on earth." Identifying two different spheres.**
- **This celebration, though definitely and mainly, a celebration of the Holy Babe, but also embraces and celebrates the creation of this new race which was to come due to the coming of this holy One, Emmanuel.**

1) GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST.

- **Their anthem begins by proclaiming the source of this miracle, this new movement.... GLORY TO GOD.**
- **GLORY: praise and adoration, to boast.**
- **This is the first purpose, mission, of the incarnation, the Savoir of man coming in human form, is to give and bring glory to God.**
- **To display His attributes, forgiveness, grace and love.**

- Making a way for God to be just and the justifier of those who come to Him by faith. Rom. 3:26
- Notice God is the source, the instigator, He it is who always initiates and it is man kind who must respond to His actions.
- It is not my prayer, confession, or contrition that triggers Gods' action toward me, but God's originating action toward me that triggers my prayer, confession, contrition.
- For it is written,
 - This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." Jn. 6:9
 - No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him Jn. 6:44
 - Phil. 2:13 For it is God who works in you to will and to do...
- Salvation cannot rise from the earth to heaven, it comes from God in heaven to men on the earth. Salvation belongs to our God.

2) PEACE ON EARTH.

- What was it that God had instigated? PEACE ON EARTH.
- PEACE; to join together that which had been separated.
 - Eph. 2:13-15
- The very phrase, "on earth peace" confesses that at this present time there is no real lasting peace on earth.
 - Col. 2:13-15
- Presently there is no peace for this earth, except among a people in whom He is well pleased.
 - Col. 1:21, 21, And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight
- What does the world know of peace, a holy peace?
- the United Nations, and the armies of the world try to bring and hold peace together by displaying military might.
- Destructive weapons and arms as man's way to enforce peace. Peace cannot be enforced in the hearts of men.
- Men cannot bring lasting heavenly peace into this world for men's hearts are evil, troubled, twisted and self-centered.
- The world says it gives or has peace, but only till there is trouble, its peace evaporates with the appearance of the slightest trouble.
- To know the peace of God one must know the Prince of peace, to be in Him.
- Only being of this new Jesus race is there peace, peace with God.
 - Jn. 14:27; Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.
- The world says it gives or has peace, but only till there is trouble, its peace evaporates with the appearance of the slightest trouble.
- But we have a lasting eternal peace;
 - Col. 1:20; having made peace through the blood of His cross.

- See Jesus's first words to His beloved disciples in the upper room, the first trophies of His new race Jn. **20:19-20**.
- These men displayed what they had received, peace which the angels had promised. In the face of Death this peace did not evaporate.
 - See Stephen;
 - Peter calls death putting off his tent, and again, his decease. (Same word as Jesus on the mount.) (2 Ptr. 1:14, 15)
 - Paul calls death a sleep or in 2 Tim. 4:6 "his departure."
- The epistles and letters 18X Paul, Peter...

3) AMONG MEN WITH WHOM HE IS WELL PLEASED.

- From this miraculous evening let's look ahead 30 years. From the Babe of Bethlehem, to the Man of the Jordan.
- He has grown and arrived at the day of His Messianic mission and we hear heaven break forth, shattering the silence with the Father's voice, "this is My beloved Son in Him I am well pleased."
- Who was to be the benefactors of this new movement? **PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE IS WELL PLEASED.**
- These men of whom God would be well pleased were men of whom God was generating a "New Race."
- The N.T. opens with this theme.
 - Matt. 1:1; The book of the generation of Jesus Christ...
- They will be a people from every tribe;
 - After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; Rev. 7:9.
- The creation of a new generation, a new genealogy with Christ as the Head, the First Born.
- This is the church of the first born.
 - to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, Heb. 12:23
- A new generation, His own special people;
 - But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Peter 2: 9, 10.
- the church, there it is that God's peace and good will abides.

CONCLUSION

- Let us glory, praise and adore our God in the highest.
- Who came to earth to lift our curse and make peace with God on our behalf.
- Who sent the Holy Spirit to abide with us until He returns.

- **May we be at peace with Him and one another as we walk in the light, being men and women of whom He is well pleased!**