Seminole
BAPTIST CHURCH

KINGDOM PEACE

Christmas Devotions
from the Bible
(Based on the NKJV)

3330 Mission Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32303 • (850) 562-8069 • www.SeminoleBC.com

Introduction

This devotional is a collection of devotional readings intended to be read during the Christmas and New Year's Season and focuses on the peace that comes from a right relationship with the One that was born into this world many years ago. We know that Jesus did not come into existence on the day that He was born, because we know that "He was in the beginning with God" (John 1:2). John went on to say that "All things were made through Him" and that "without Him nothing was made that was made" (John 1:3). The One who created all things desires to bestow a deep, lasting peace in our hearts, minds, and souls. I say "bestow" because true peace is to have *His* peace dwelling within us. He said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). May you greatly enjoy this Christmas Season and may "the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15).

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Isaiah 9:1-7	12/18/25
2	John 1:1-14	12/19/25
3	Isaiah 7:1-14	12/20/25
4	Luke 1:26-35	12/21/25
5	Matthew 1:18-25	12/22/25
6	Luke 2:1-7	12/23/25
7	Luke 2:8-14	12/24/25
8	Matthew 2:1-12	12/25/25
9	Numbers 6:22-27	12/26/25
10	Judges 6:11-25	12/27/25
11	1 Chronicles 22:1-10	12/28/25
12	Psalm 4:1-8	12/29/25
13	Psalm 29:1-11	12/30/35
14	Psalm 37:1-11	12/31/25
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

		Date

Day 1: Isaiah 9:1-7

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end." (Isaiah 9:6-7a)

"Prince of Peace"

Prior to these verses, Isaiah had spoken of many changes that were coming for God's people. In this chapter the Holy Spirit led Isaiah to speak of the Deliverer that was to come and bring those changes to reality. Israel had been lacking joy and prosperity for years. The first verse in chapter 9 spoke of "gloom" and God's people being "distressed" and "oppressed." Verse 2 states that, at least for a time, God's people had "walked in darkness" and had "dwelt in the land of the shadow of death." But, beginning at the closing words of verse 2 through verse 5, we see God's people described as those who had "seen a great light," and upon whom "a light (had) shined." That "light" was to be found in a Person who was to be born as a "Child" and live as God among men! Among other things, His name would be "called…Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 is an important verse because it includes the first of Isaiah's twenty-five references to "peace." Without the coming of Christ there can be no peace – not on earth – and not even in our hearts. I once observed a bumper sticker that read, "No Christ, No Peace. Know Christ, Know Peace!" The word translated "peace" here is a word that describes the peace that comes when we are in a right covenant relationship with God.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that the "Child" who is described in today's verses in none other than the "Mighty God" and the "Everlasting Father." **Believe** that, as *God*, He is *powerful enough* to do all that we need Him to do, and that, as our *Father*, He is *loving enough* to do all that we need Him to do. **Allow** the "Prince of Peace" to fill your heart and life with the peace that only God can provide.

Day 2: John 1:1-14

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

"The Word Became Flesh"

John's gospel begins with the same words as the Book of Genesis, "In the beginning" (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1). The Holy Spirit then had John repeat the phrase in John 1:2. John referred to Jesus as "the Word" three times in that opening verse. John used the Greek word translated "Word" here more often than any other gospel writer. When you include the number of times he used it in 1, 2, & 3 John and Revelation, we see that John used this word almost as often as the other three gospel writers combined. He went on to proclaim that Jesus was a participant in the creation of the world: "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (v. 3). In the closing verse of today's reading John told us that "the Word became flesh and *dwelt* among us." John was the only New Testament writer that used this word for "dwelt" in his writings. He used it here and then another four times in Revelation. The Greek word that is translated "dwelt" here comes from a root word that is translated "tabernacle" or "tent" in 2 Corinthians 5:1 and 4. The word implies that Jesus "became flesh" for only the brief time that He lived in a human body on earth.

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that God literally came and "dwelt" temporarily in a human body like ours. **Understand** that the Bible states that Jesus did more than simply appear, or look like a man, He *became* a man! **Read** and **reflect** on the words of Philippians 2:7 today.

Day 3: Isaiah 7:1-14

"'Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.'" (Isaiah 7:14)

"Immanuel"

There are at least twenty-two astonishing Messianic prophecies in the Book of Isaiah, and today's focus verse contains one of the best of them! This prophecy in Isaiah 7:14, like all the others, finds its fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. The "Son" that was to be born to "the virgin" was to be God in the flesh. He was to be "the Word (that) became flesh and *dwelt* among us" that we read about yesterday (John 1:14). Isaiah 7:14 is one of the Bible's clearest and dearest prophecies of the birth of our Messiah, Jesus Christ. I realize that some translations use the words "young woman" instead of "virgin" here, but you can rest assured that this word means "a woman of marriageable age who was not married and still a virgin." The first time we find this word in the Bible is in Genesis 24:43 where this word is first translated "virgin" in respect to Rebekah's status as an acceptable bride for Isaac. When Isaiah 7:14 is quoted in the New Testament the meaning of the name of given to us. In Matthew 1:23 we read: "'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel' which is translated, "God with us." The "Son" of which Isaiah prophesied was to be none other than the immortal, invisible, eternal God.

Prayer Emphasis: Note the word "Behold" in our focus verse and **realize** that it is translated from a demonstrative particle that requests, or even demands, the full attention of the reader or listener. A "virgin" conceiving and bearing "a Son" is surely something to see, especially if that "Son" is the only begotten Son of God!

Day 4: Luke 1:26-35

"Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS.'" (Luke 1:30-31)

"JESUS"

Although the first of our focus verses only says that an "angel" visited and spoke with Mary, the first verse of today's entire Scripture reading clearly identifies this messenger of God as "the angel Gabriel (v. 26). A look back at Luke 1:18-19 reveals that Gabrial was also sent by God to Zacharias to announce the birth of John the Baptist. When we read the phrase "Then the angel said to her," it implies that the angel was responding to Mary's reaction to seeing and hearing him. In verse 28 we read that, after he had "come in" the angel said to Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" Verse 29 tells us that, "when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying." While the NKJV simply states that "she was troubled" here, several translations use the words "greatly troubled" or "deeply troubled" to describe Mary's reaction to the angel and his message. It was only after she was "troubled" that the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary." She was told that, after her son was born, she would "call His name JESUS." The name "JESUS" means, "Yahweh Saves."

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior! There is no other way to Heaven but through Him! As we draw near to Christmas Day, **remember** that old saying that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season!" **Thank** God today for the wonderful gift of His Son, our Savior!

Day 5: Matthew 1:18-25

"Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son…" (Matthew 1:24-25)

"Joseph"

Joseph was a descendant of King David who lived in Nazareth of Galilee. We know truly little about Joseph from the Scriptures. He is last mentioned in the Bible when Jesus was only twelve years old. After that, he is conspicuously absent from the pages of the gospels. When Jesus was at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, Mary was there, but Joseph was not with her. At that time Jesus was about thirty years old. Then, while Jesus was dying on the cross at about age thirty-three, He entrusted the care of His mother, Mary, to the Apostle John. He would not have needed to do that if Joseph had still been alive. Joseph was the adoptive father of Jesus during the early years of our Lord's life. Matthew 1:19 states that Joseph was "a just man" who loved God and his espoused bride, Mary. Perhaps the greatest statement about Joseph is found in our focus verse, where we read, "Then Joseph…*did as the angel of the Lord commanded him* and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son." Some translations use the words "did not know her intimately" or "did not consummate their marriage" to help us better understand what the words "did not know her" mean.

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that Mary became pregnant through the Holy Spirit and not Joseph (v. 18). **Learn** from Joseph that a man who is a believer is to be faithful to God and loving and compassionate to his wife. **Celebrate** Christmas tomorrow but take some time to **ask** God to help you be more like Jesus *and* Joseph.

Day 6: Luke 2:1-7

"And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7)

"Her Firstborn Son"

Christmas Day is near and we will soon be celebrating the birth of the "firstborn Son" of Mary who is none other than Jesus Christ, the "only begotten Son" of God (John 3:16). Jesus is referred to as Mary's "firstborn Son" because the Scriptures clearly reveal that she later had other children. However, the word "only" in John 3:16 reminds us that there was never any one like Jesus before His coming to this world as a man, and that there will never be another like Him, either. The reason that there was "no room for them in the inn" was because the small town of Bethlehem was filled with people who had come home to register for the census. The "swaddling cloths" in which Mary "wrapped" the baby Jesus were strips of cloth that were used to keep the baby warm and comfortable. Mary and Joseph had to travel nearly one hundred miles to get to Bethlehem from Nazareth. The census and the travel probably presented a great inconvenience to this young couple, but it was necessary to fulfill the prophecy of Micah 5:2: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be the Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to allow any of the inconveniences or frustrations of the day to spoil your Christmas joy! When "Tab A" does not fit into "Slot B," just **be thankful** that your Christmas is certainly more convenient and comfortable than that first Christmas in Bethlehem! Please have a Merry Christmas!

Day 7: Luke 2:8-14

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'" (Luke 2:13-14)

"Shepherds"

It is Christmas Eve and we are reading once more about the night of Jesus birth. We read yesterday where Micah 5:2 referred to Bethlehem as "little." Some translations use the word "least" there to describe the hometown of Joseph. So, the Bible tells us that Jesus was born in what might have been considered one of the *least* places. Today we learn that His birth was first announced to men who were among a group that was considered to be some of the *least* people in society. For various reasons, shepherds were considered unclean and were forbidden to worship in the temple. They were also not allowed to testify in court. It was to these shepherds that "the glory of the Lord" appeared along with an "angel" who said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." The angel went on to say, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (vs. 10-11). Then that angel was joined by "a multitude of the heavenly host" who were "praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!'" How precious it is that our "Prince of Peace" would first be announced to some who were considered to be the least among their fellow men.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize the One of whom the angel said to the shepherds was "born to you" (v. 11) is also the One that has been "born" to us! **Praise** God for the gift of His precious Son and let every day be Christmas in your heart!

Day 8: Matthew 2:1-12

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

"Wise Men"

There has been much speculation about who the "wise men" mentioned in our focus verse were and where they were from. The general consensus is that these men "from the east" were some of the astrologers of Persia that Daniel mentioned at least four times in his prophecy. It is believed that they learned about the One who was to be "born King of the Jews" from Daniel's writings. When it comes to their actual number, the Bible never mentions how many "wise men" there were. We often see three of them in our art or theatrical productions, but I suppose that we get that number because they came bearing three gifts. We hear or see them often referred to as kings. However, they are never referred to as kings in the Bible. It might be that the idea that they were kings came from verses like Isaiah 60:3 where we read, "The Gentiles shall come to your light, and *kings* to the brightness of your rising." These men were obviously "Gentiles" and have been assumed to be "kings." It is obvious that they finally saw Jesus when he was "a young child" and not a babe and in a "house" rather than a manger (v. 11).

Prayer Emphasis: Learn this lesson from the "wise men": Their sole purpose was to "worship" the One who had "been born King of the Jews." **Emulate** their actions and allow neither time nor distance to prohibit you from seeking Jesus. **Remember** that saying of old: "Wise men still seek Him!"

Day 9: Numbers 6:22-27

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

Three Great Promises

The words of Numbers 6:24-26 are sometimes called "The Priestly Blessing" or "Aaron's Priestly Blessing." In these words, God has Aaron declare that He will "keep," "be gracious," and provide "peace" to His people. Notice that the divine name Yahweh ("the LORD") is mentioned in all three promises. God has never left His followers without confidence that He is personally involved in their lives. When God promised to "keep" His people He was saying much more than He would not cast them aside for anyone else. The word translated "keep" here means that God was promising to protect and support His people all their days and in all their ways. The word "gracious" teaches us that God will "keep" us in a loving and tender way. God also had Aaron promise His people that He would "give" them "peace." The promise of "peace" is much more than just a promise of an absence of war. It is a promise of God's fullest "peace" that shelters and protects His people from within and without. A Hebrew professor once taught me that, in the original manuscripts, verse 24 contains three words, verse 25 contains five words, and verse 26 contains seven words. Then he said, "It seems like God's promises just get bigger and better every step of the way!"

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that the source of the peace promised in the wilderness was the "Prince of Peace" that was promised in Isaiah 9:6! **Understand** that our Lord was "in the beginning" with the Father (Genesis 1:1). **Claim** God's promises of His presence and peace and enjoy His many blessings today!

Day 10: Isaiah 26:1-9

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, for in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength." (Isaiah 26:3-4)

"Perfect Peace"

Isaiah 26:1-9 is part of a song of praise to God for the deliverance and restoration that He was to eventually bring to His people. I say "eventually" because the opening verse of the song speaks of "that day" as if it is a day to come in Israel's future. Verses 1-2 speak of "a strong city" with "walls and bulwarks" and "gates." But the "perfect peace" that is promised in our focus verses is not based on such external things. It is based on what the believer knows in his heart and "mind." Our minds are to be "stayed" on God. Some translations use words such as "steadfast," "fixed," or "unmoved" to describe the stability that only God can provide as we endure the present without losing hope for the future. One translation uses the word "dependent" here. To us, our situations may seem hopeless, but with God is it a customary thing for Him to support and stabilize His people in times of trial and affliction. This is a wonderful time of year to ask our "Prince of Peace" for the "perfect peace" that comes when we allow Him to be a stabilizing force in our lives. Verse 3 reminds us of a particularly important fact. This promise of a "stayed" or "steadfast" mind is made to the embattled believer that places their "trust" in God.

Prayer Emphasis: Obey the command found in verse 4 and "Trust in the LORD forever." **Believe** that in Him is "everlasting strength." The words "everlasting strength" come from the Hebrew "Rock of Ages." "Perfect Peace" is promised to those who choose to stand on that Rock!

Day 11: 1 Chronicles 22:1-10

"Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. He shall build a house for My name…" (1 Chronicles 22:9-10a)

"Peace and Quietness"

Some translations read "peace and quiet" or "peace and rest" here in 1 Chronicles 22:9. However, these words may be translated in your Bible, they represent something that Israel had not experienced for an exceedingly long time. The years under King Saul, Israel's first king, had been nothing but tumultuous. The times under David were far from times of "peace and quietness." David told Solomon that, when he had set his heart on building a temple for the LORD, "the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight'" (v. 8). David had already begun to appoint "masons to cut hewn stones," and he "prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates" and "cedar trees in abundance" (vs. 2-4). However it was obviously going to fall to Solomon to do the actual building of God's house. And why was Solomon God's choice to build the temple? Because he, unlike his father David, had been a man of "peace." However, Solomon could not claim any credit for the peace that Israel experienced in his days. God clearly told David, "*I* will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days."

Prayer Emphasis: We may not be kings, but we serve a God who is just as concerned about the "peace and quietness" of our days as He was Solomon "in his days." **Pray** for God to give us "peace and quietness" in our days. Not just in our hearts, but also in our world.

Day 12: Psalm 4:1-8

"You have put gladness in my heart…I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." (Psalm 4:7-8)

"Peace" and "Safety"

Many believe that Psalms 3 and 4 were written together with Psalm 4 expressing the relief and peace that David experienced after he was spared from his problems described in Psalm 3:1. The "distress" mentioned in 4:1 may have been the "increased…trouble" that David wrote about in 3:1. Psalm 3:2 finds David reporting that "Many are they who say of me, 'There is no help for him in God.'" Well, whoever "they" were, "they" were wrong! In 4:1 David speaks of having been "relieved" (past tense) from his "distress." David learned something from his "distress." Some of what he learned is expressed in verse 3: "The LORD will hear when I call to Him." From his earlier "distress" David had also learned to avoid revenge, "meditate" and "be still" and to "Put (his) trust in the LORD" (vs. 4-5). By God's help, David had gone from "distress" to saying to God, "You have put gladness in my heart" (v. 7). Now David could say, "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety." The safety that David experienced here is the "safety" that God promised His people back in Deuteronomy 12:10.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that we are not the first generation of believers to experience "distress" and anxiety. **Believe** that the LORD will hear you when you call upon Him. **Meditate** on His goodness and **trust** Him enough to "be still" and let Him cause you to "lie down in peace" and "dwell in safety."

Day 13: Psalm 29:1-11

"The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, and the LORD sits as King forever. The LORD will give strength to His people; the LORD will bless His people with peace." (Psalm 29:10-11)

The Blessing of "Peace"

Psalm 29 is a psalm of praise to God. In it, David urges his readers to "Give unto the LORD the glory due His name" and to "worship the LORD in the beauty of His holiness" (v. 2). Several translations use the word "ascribe" at the beginning of verse two instead of the word "give." That is a good translation of the Hebrew word used here and several times in this psalm. It helps us to understand that we do not have to "give" God anything, but we do "ascribe" or credit Him with such things as "glory and strength" and "the glory due to His name" (vs. 1-2). Some think David wrote this psalm after observing a powerful storm that reminded him of God's great strength and control over the universe. They believe David heard the noise of the storm and thus declared "The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders" (v. 3). He went on to say, "The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty" (v. 4). In verse five, David described God's "voice" as one that "breaks" and "splinters" even the mighty "cedars of Lebanon." In verses seven through nine he added, "The voice of the LORD divides" and "shakes the wilderness" to the point that it "strips the forests bare." Who is this powerful LORD that David is describing? "The LORD" that "sat" (past tense) "enthroned at the Flood" and "the LORD that sits (present tense) as King forever."

Prayer Emphasis: Note that the mighty "LORD" that is described here is The LORD who "will bless His people with peace." **Remember** that the God who *created* the storm is the same God who can *calm* it.

Day 14: Psalm 37:1-11

"For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more…But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." (Psalm 37:10-11)

"The Abundance of Peace"

Three times in this psalm the readers are told "do not fret" (vs. 1,7, 8). Some translations say, "Do not worry" or "Don't be upset" at the presumed success of the "evildoers" and "the workers of iniquity." David reminded the readers of his day (as well as all of us) that those people "shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither are the green herb" (v. 2). What the Holy Spirit had David say here is that the presumed success of the "evildoers" will be short lived. Rather than "fret," believers are encouraged to "Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness" (v. 3). Then verse 4 commands us to "Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." I have heard that verse explained this way: "If we delight ourselves in the LORD, He will put the right kind of desires in our hearts." If we "delight" in the LORD, we will have righteous desires that agree with God's will. Those whose desires match God's plans soon "delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Jesus quoted from this psalm in His first recorded sermon (See Matthew 5:5)

Prayer Emphasis: Claim your promise of peace today! **Refuse** to "fret" or be envious of those who seemed to prosper even though they are not living in obedience to God. "**Delight**" yourself in the things that please God and **ask** Him to give you holy desires that will lead you to live a holy life.