

Verse 1

Jesus' birth brought God's plan of restoration to fruition.

Verse 2

John 1:4-5 - ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 8:12 - Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Jesus' birth revealed God's overpowering light over sin's darkness.

Revelation 22:5 - And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Verse 3

By His presence

Verse 4

By His power

Verse 5

By His peace

John Oswalt – God is strong enough to overcome His enemies by becoming vulnerable, transparent, and humble – the only hope, in fact, for turning enmity into friendship.

Verse 6

2 Chronicles 31:20 - Thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah, and he did what was good and right and faithful before the LORD his God.

Matthew 4:12-17 - ¹² Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—" ¹⁶ the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Jesus' birth personalized God's redemptive plan.

Romans 8:15 - For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Jeremiah 3:19-20 – ¹⁹ "I said, How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. ²⁰ Surely, as a treacherous wife leaves her husband, so have you been treacherous to me, O house of Israel, declares the LORD. '"

*John 14:27 - **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.** Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

*John 20:19-20, 26 – ¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ...²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace be with you.**"*

*Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Jesus' birth promised God's eternal distribution of peace.

*Luke 2:13-14 - ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and **on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**"*

Verse 7

2 Samuel 7:12-16 - ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever. ' "

Jesus' birth established a never-ending kingdom characterized by spiritual and moral maturity reflecting His character.

Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 4:14-5:10*