

CHRISTMAS

— THE PROMISE ARRIVING

MESSAGE APPLICATION GUIDE

Pastor Jeff Bucknam

Isaiah 2:1-5

1. What do you think of Santa Claus? As Christians, what are the good and bad aspects of our cultural views of St. Nicholas? What do you know about the real St. Nicholas and his Christian commitments?

2. What are the common ways our society tries to achieve peace on earth? Which approaches and ideas have merit and which don't? Why? What stands in the way of us achieving peace on earth?

3. When it comes to religion and peace on earth, some think religion itself is the problem and others think it's merely religious "exclusivism" (believing in the truthfulness of only one religion) that's the problem. What do you think? Isaiah 2:1-5 seems to say that all the nations will have peace when they abandon their own gods (enthroned upon the mountains) and come to the mountain of the One True God. What objections do most people have with that kind of thinking? Why?

4. In what ways does submission to God and His Word lead to peace? How does that work in our marriages? In our workplaces? In our friendships? In our driving? What examples can you give where submission to God and his Word has brought peace out of disharmony? What examples can you give of where the rejection of God and His Work has brought about war?

5. Reflect on Christmas for a moment. What kinds of things do we learn about God from the incarnation? What character traits of his are highlighted by the Father sending His Son to become one of us? How do those character traits encourage you in whatever is happening in your life at the moment?

6. Read Luke 2:1-14. What sticks out to you about this passage describing the birth of Jesus? What questions does it raise and what do you wish was more explained?
