

# I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

December 6, 2020

Pastor Roy Halberg

THE BIG IDEA: The Promise of peace is at the very heart of the message of the Christmas story

→ I want to tell you Henry's story this morning . . . it's all about peace . . .

1. The **PROMISE** of the anticipated Messiah was a promise of peace (Isaiah 9:6-7; Psalm 29:11)
2. The **PROCLAMATION** of the Messiah's arrival was a promise of peace (Luke 2:14; Luke 19:37-38)
3. The **PROGRAM** of the Messiah's ministry was a promise of peace (John 14:27; 16:33)
4. The **PLAN** for the Messiah's kingdom was a promise of peace (Rom 5:1; Eph 2:14-19; Col 1:19-20 )

So what? Now What? Taking it home!

→ God's promise of peace is much needed in our world today

→ Do you have God's peace today?

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Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

1 I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men

2

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

3

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

4

Then from each black accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

5

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

6

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

7

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

A golden angel with wings is playing a harp. The background is filled with autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The entire scene is framed by a thin golden border. In the top right corner, there is a white starburst graphic.

# PRINCE OF PEACE

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# Peace Is At The Heart Of The Christmas Message

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