

“Jesus Came To ... Divide?”

Luke 2:14; 9:51; 12:49-59

When the angels sang in the shepherd’s field they announced “peace.” But it’s not a worldly peace (Lu. 2:14 is often mistranslated!) attained through human wisdom and effort. It is peace *with a holy God* attained through a vicarious substitute (i.e. a ‘representative head’). This peace came through the death of Christ to those persuaded of his Gospel (see 24:46-48). In our passage today Jesus anticipates his role as the “Great Divider” in the world. Henry says (5.176) the “fire” of verse 49 “ought to be understood as the fire of persecution. Christ is not the Author of it ... but he permits it, nay, he commissions it, as a refining fire ... This fire was already kindled in the enmity of the carnal Jews to Christ and his followers.”

I. Jesus anticipated _____ of persecution in the world. They _____ today. (v 49, 51)

1. Jesus had _____ his _____ (9:51), knowing his claims incited _____.
2. “_____” probably refers to the fire of _____ between believers and unbelievers.
3. Peace comes only through _____ and _____ in the Messiah!

II. Jesus anticipated his “_____” of _____ covering him like a flood . (v 50)

1. He was laboring amidst _____ to fulfill his _____.
2. God’s plan is being _____ then and now! (1:1; 9:31; 12:50; 18:31)

III. We must anticipate _____ with those _____ to Jesus. (v 52-53)

1. No man can _____ two _____ (Matt. 6:24). Who has your _____?
2. Verse 52-53 teach _____ of Christ must transcend our deepest _____.

IV. We must _____ Jesus’ time ... and our _____. (v 54-56)

1. We can read the _____, but often overlook God’s _____.
2. Meditate carefully upon Christ’s _____ in time – and your _____.

V. We must _____ to maintain peace. (v 57-59; Heb. 12:14)

1. Make an _____ to settle quarrels as you stand in the _____ of _____.
2. “From now on” (v 52): live in the _____ between Christ’s eternal kingdom and this fallen, unbelieving age. Expect suffering and obey the exhortation of 1 Peter 1:13.