


THE STORY OF ELIZABETH



VOICES OF ADVENT




PEACE DEFINED



A state of harmony in the absence
of hostility and violence (Wikipedia)

Freedom from disturbance;
tranquility; state or period where
there is no war (Oxford Dictionary)

State of tranquility or quiet
(Webster)





PEACE DEFINED



JOHN 16:32-33 NIV

A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

³³ I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

PEACE

When God is Silent

LUKE 1:5-7 ^{NIV}

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

“Sooner or later [God] withdraws, if not in fact, at least from their conscious experience, all those supports and incentives. He leaves the creature to stand up on its own legs—to carry out from the will alone duties which have lost all relish. It is during such trough periods, much more than during the peak periods, that it is growing into the sort of creature He wants it to be. The prayers offered in the state of dryness are those which please him best.”

C.S. LEWIS, THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

“He wants them to learn to walk and must therefore take away His hand; and if only the will to walk is really there He is pleased even with their stumbles. Do not be deceived, Wormwood. Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring, but still intending, to do our Enemy’s will, looks round upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished, and asks why he has been forsaken, and still obeys.”

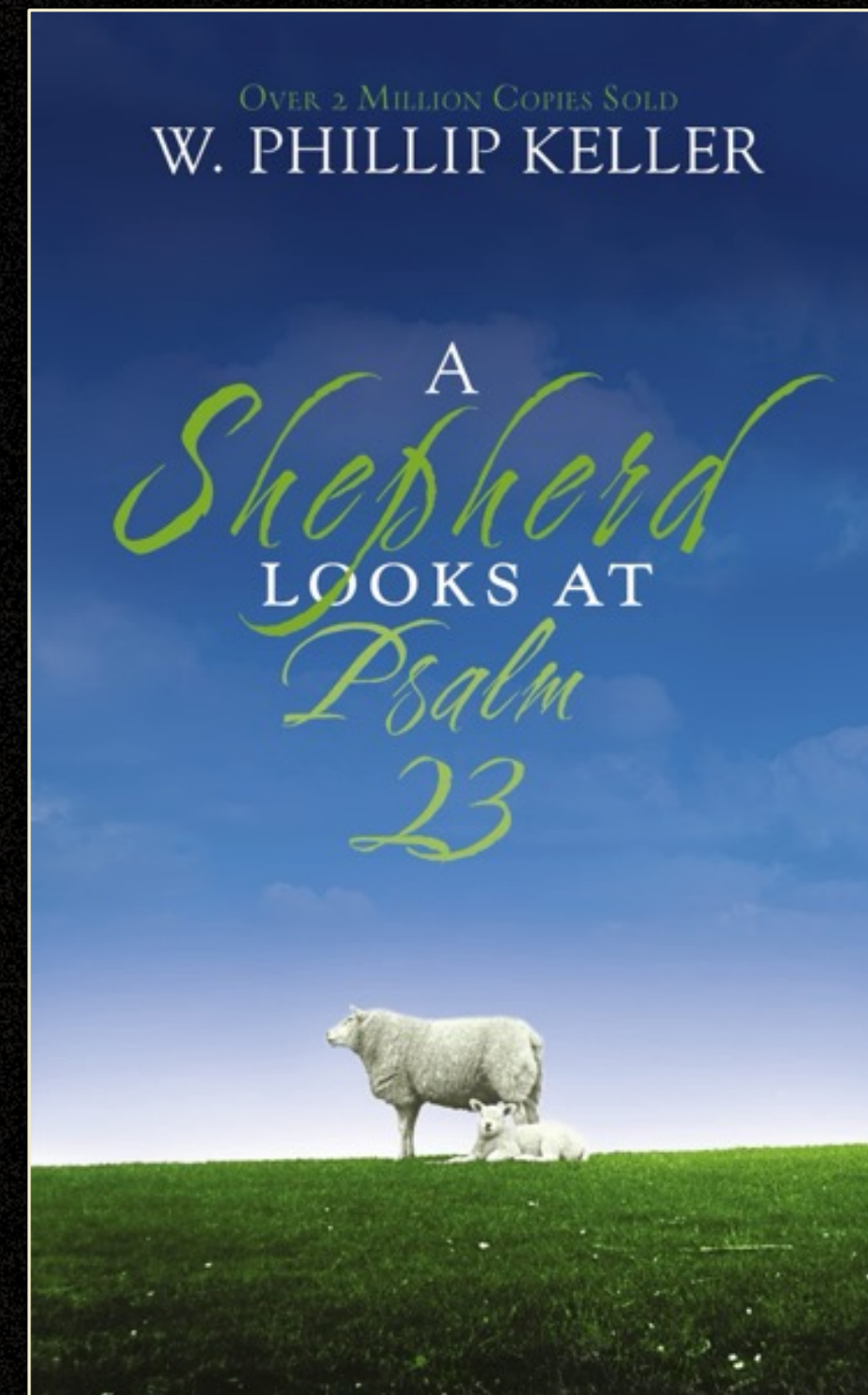
C.S. LEWIS, THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

PEACE

When God is Silent
When God Answers

LUKE 1:23-25 ^{NIV}

When his time of service was completed, he returned home.
²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. **“In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”**



The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.

PSALM 23:1-2a

PEACE

When God is Silent
When God Answers

LUKE 1:39-45 ^{NIV}

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

PEACE

When God is Silent
When God Answers
When God Redirects

LUKE 1:57-63 ^{NIV}

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.” ⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”

PEACE

When God is Silent
When God Answers
When God Redirects

LUKE 1:64-66 ^{NIV}

Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. ⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, **“What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.**



PEACE PRACTICED






PHILIPPIANS 4:5b-7 ^{NIV}

The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



PEACE PRACTICED

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1. PRESENCE
 2. PROVISION
 3. PERSPECTIVE
 4. PEOPLE
- 



God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change
the courage to change the things I can
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time.
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace.
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it.

Trusting that he will make all things right
if I surrender to His will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with Him forever.

