

**GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST,
AND ON EARTH PEACE TO ALL PEOPLE
ON WHOM HIS FAVOUR RESTS.**

In modern language:

"Tribute (acknowledgment) to God in heaven and peace on earth for those persons who give HIM joy."

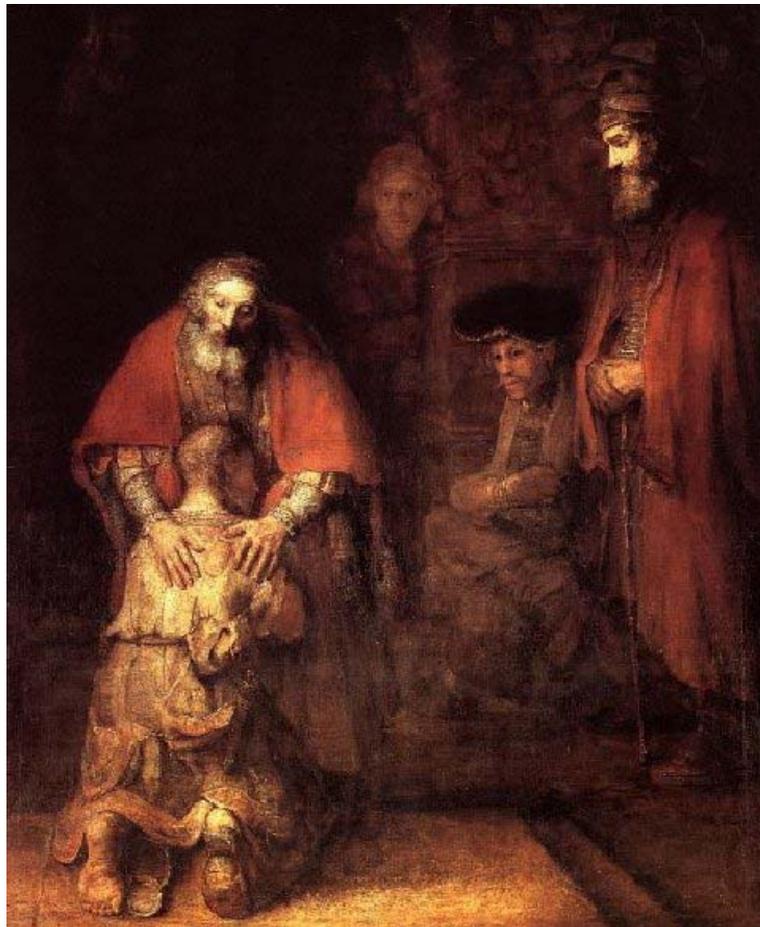
We all long for peace.

In the Christmas story God lets the angels proclaim HIS peace.

Two questions arise from this sentence:

1. Does this God in the highest (still) have my tribute and love?
2. Am I a person who gives God, the Father, joy?

Here a story Jesus told:



... Father... !!!

PICTURE: REMBRANDT: Die Heimkehr des verlorenen Sohnes - The Return of the Prodigal Son (1662)
Oil on canvas, The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia

"And Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father: "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no-one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, "How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men." So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate."

Luke 15, 11 - 24

In reference to the previously posed questions:

Does the son honour the father when he says, "Come on, old boy, give me my share of the dough. I want to live my own life. I'm leaving your ancient, dusty hut.

My tastes and ideals are completely different to yours. I want to live a life of fun and merriment!"

Did the son give his father joy at this moment?

Did the father possess the love of his son, whilst the son had nothing against, but at the same time, no thoughts for his father?

Was the father full of joy when he heard through a messenger, how his son was squandering his money away?

Was the father full of joy when he heard that his son was gaining a poor living by looking after pigs?

Was the father full of joy then?

Yet this father was full of joy, an everlasting joy, when this son found his way back home with the words:

"Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

At that moment he was full of an unlimited joy. He arranged for the son to be given new clothes, new shoes, a ring for his finger and he arranged a happy, joyful feast.

In another part of this chapter Jesus says:

"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Luke 15, 7

Isn't it time to start on our way - so that we too may find the peace of God?

Jesaja 53, 5

So that our Christmas will be a truly happy and joyful feast!