

And what do we see in angels?
Certainty, direction, peace, joy.

Luke 2:10-14

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

What is the "good news of great joy"? The glory of the Christ will be the peace of men.

1. The glory of God is seen in the coming of Christ.

Romans 15:13, 16:20,
Philippians 4:9, 1 Thessalonians
5:23, Hebrews 13:20

"in excelsis deo."

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In the King James Version of the Bible, the phrase "in excelsis deo" is used to describe the glory of God. The word "excelsis" means "high" or "above all," and "deus" means "God." The phrase is used in the opening of the Nicene Creed and the opening of the Mass in the Roman Catholic liturgy.

in excelsis deo, amen amen amen

"On whom his favor rests."
Literally: "The people of his pleasure."

Who is this?
On whom does his favor rest?

3. God brings joy to those he enjoys.

How is the Savior for "...all the people..."

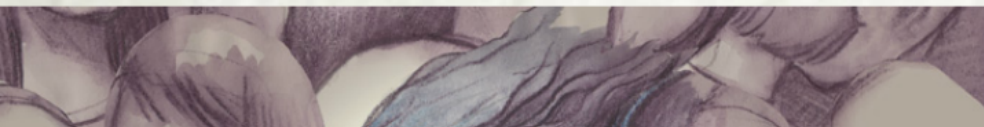
Yet the peace is for: "...those on whom his favor rests?"

Romans 9:1-6
This is the only place in the Bible where the word "pleasure" is used to describe God's favor. The word "pleasure" is used in the context of God's love for his people, and it is used to describe the joy that God brings to those who are his people. The word "pleasure" is also used in the context of God's justice, and it is used to describe the punishment that God brings to those who are not his people.

John 1:9-14
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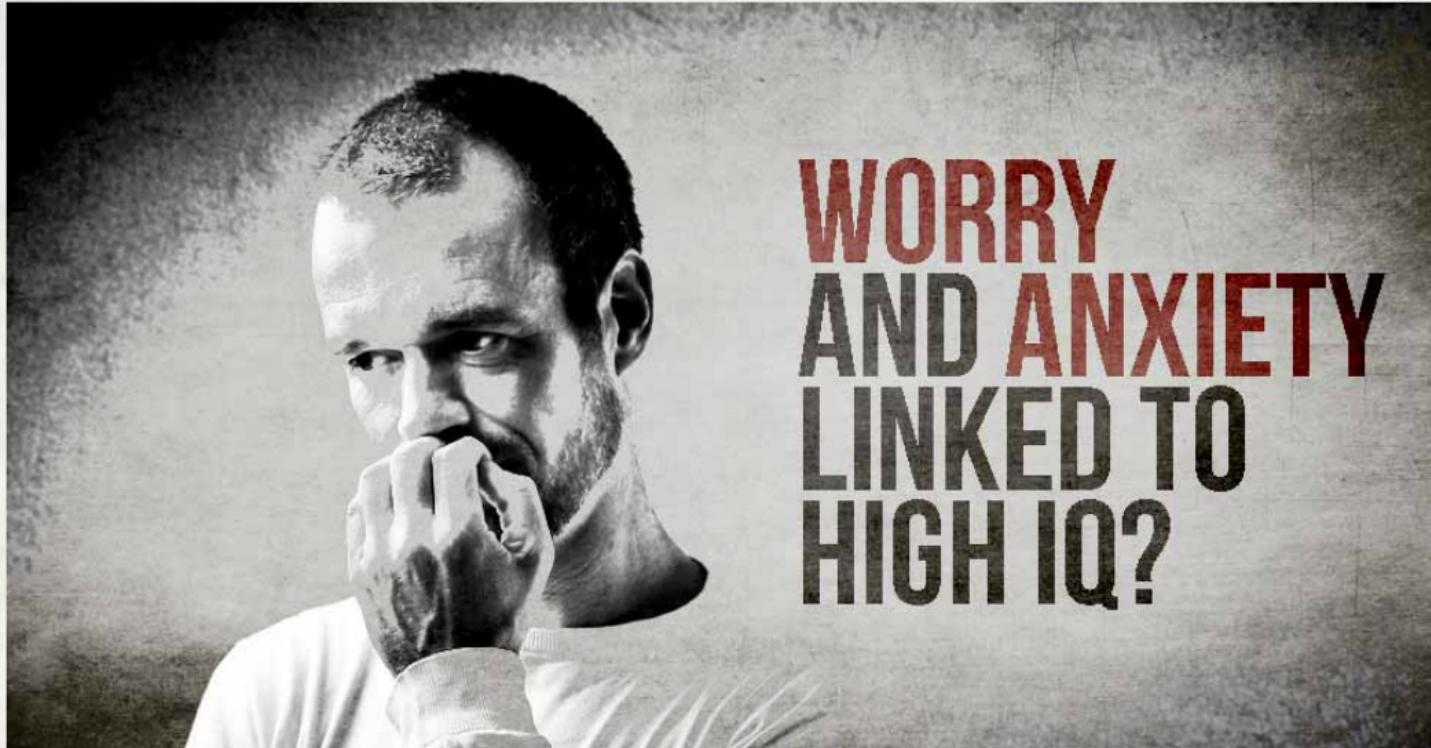


SONGS *of the*
MESSIAH





Anxiety and conflict: realities and euphemism



You're better evolved!

"It occurred to me that if you happen to have a preponderance of negatively hued self-generated thoughts...means you can experience intense negative emotions even when there's no threat present. This could mean that...high scorers on neuroticism have...a built-in threat generator."

It's the price of Genius!

"Cheerful, happy-go-lucky people by definition do not brood about problems and so must be at a disadvantage when problem-solving compared to a more neurotic person...For example, think of the life stories of Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Vincent Van Gogh, Kurt Cobain, etc. Perhaps the link between creativity and neuroticism was summed up most succinctly of all by John Lennon when he said: 'Genius is pain.'"



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What is the "good news of great joy"?

The glory of the Christ will be the peace of men.

In the "time of important royal things"
Luke 2:13
In the time of important royal things, a king should be born of the order of David. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.
Something was happening among the poor:
Luke 2:7
...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

Romans 15:13, 16:20,
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1. The glory of God is seen in the coming of Christ.

2. The peace of men is found in the glory of Christ.

"in excelsis deo."

Luke 2:10-14
But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Inability to make peace and be at peace is a HUMAN characteristic. It is part of our HUMAN condition.
It is either our death, or we must be saved.
"... a savior has been born to you..."

"On whom his favor rests."
Literally: "The people of his pleasure."

Who is this?
On whom does his favor rest?

Romans 5:1-6
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. 6 ¶ You see, it was just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

3. God brings joy to those he enjoys.

How is the Savior for
"...all the people..."



Yet the peace is for:
"...those on whom his favor rests"?

John 1:10-14
He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 ¶ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

In the "time of important royal things"

Luke 2:1-3

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

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