

Perfect Peace.

The War in Israel and Our Attitude Towards It

Isaiah 24-26

Isaiah 26:1-4 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.² Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Ps. 122:6-9 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!⁷ Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!”⁸ For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!”⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.

I. The Nature of Perfect Peace

A. Salvation Will Come from the Lord

Isaiah 26:1-4 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.² Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Deuteronomy 28:47-50 Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.⁴⁹ The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.

Deuteronomy 28:51-52 It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.⁵² They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.

Deuteronomy 28:64-65 “And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.

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Isa. 7:14, 16 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isa. 25:9 It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

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Ps. 62:1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

B. Shalom will come from the Lord

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Ps. 62:6-8 He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.⁷ On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Phil. 4:6-7 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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C. Trust in the Lord

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Reasons for our inability to focus on God

- Poor knowledge of God's Word
- Laziness
- A multitude of distractions
- Fear and anxiety
- Strong desires

The devil doesn't care what your feelings and thoughts are drawn to, as long as they are not focused on God. This is guaranteed to deprive you of peace.

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“Trust in Yahweh forever, For in Yah—Yahweh Himself—we have an everlasting Rock.” (Legacy Standard Bible)

II. Obtaining Perfect Peace

A. Perfect peace is connected to the Messiah

Isaiah 26:1-4 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.² Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.³ You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.⁴ Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 25:8-9 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.⁹ It will be said **on that day**, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Deut. 30:1-2 “And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you,² **and return to the LORD your God**, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul,

Deut. 30:3-5 then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.⁵ And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

Isaiah 4:2-4 In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel.³ And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,⁴ when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning.

Isaiah 11:1-3 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

Isaiah 11:4-5 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

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B. Perfect peace is associated with righteousness

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Deuteronomy 30:6-8 And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.⁷ And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.⁸ **And you shall again obey the voice of the LORD and keep all his commandments that I command you today.**

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

How does this help us to have the right attitude towards what is happening in Israel today?

- What happens in Israel is in accordance with God's Word.
- God will surely save Israel.
- We need to pray for Israel.
- We need to bless Israel.
- We need to remember that the hope of the whole world is in Christ.

Ps. 122:6-9 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! “May they be secure who love you!⁷ Peace be within your walls and security within your towers!”⁸ For my brothers and companions’ sake I will say, “Peace be within you!”⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.