

Advent - Peace -> It is finished

What is the peace of scripture?

Shalom / שָׁלוֹם (OT) - complete, whole, to live well, restore, no longer at war

Eiréné / εἰρήνη (NT) - harmony, security, salvation

Isaiah 9:6 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.

At its core, it is the result of Jesus-centered joy, love, and hope.

Luke 2:14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Peace - it is experienced by those with whom he is pleased.

Philippians 2:13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

God is at work!

God is pleased because of Jesus.

We must get off the treadmill of works righteousness.

If I _____ then God will be more pleased with me.

God's love, demonstrated through Jesus, carries the intensity and weight of our lives.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

I am not alone (peace).

God's peace is mediated through a Messiah.

Isaiah 9:7 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.

Micah 5:4-5 And he shall stand and *shepherd his flock* in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

5 And *he shall be their peace*.

- The one doing the work, the shepherd, is Christ.
- God is pleased and peace is experienced through Jesus.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:14-17 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

Again, notice who is doing the work?

- He has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall.
- Making peace.
- Reconciling us both to God.
- Killing the hostility.
- He preached peace.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, **21** *equip you with everything good that you may do his will*, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

God is equipping us. He is preparing us to do his will. (PEACE)

Through the cross to the light. (Medieval church saying - *per crucem ad lucem*)

Colossians 1:19-20 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, *making peace by the blood of his cross*.

Acts 10:36-43 As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), **37** you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. **43** To him all the prophets bear witness that *everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*"

A person who lives in peace experiences restoration.

Restoration that comes because of salvation in Jesus and relational restoration that takes place because of sanctification.

Psalm 85:8-10 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. **9** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. **10** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Peace is tenderly connected to righteousness (they kiss each other).

Righteousness takes place because of the forgiveness of sin, because of Jesus.

When we are whole (peaceful) righteousness happens, it flows from us.

Matthew 5:8-9

Pure in heart -> see God

Peacemakers -> are called sons and daughters of God.

There is no peace for the wicked. God's word is very direct.

Isaiah 48:22 "There is no peace," says the Lord, "for the wicked."

Isaiah 57:21 There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

Romans 2:9-10 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, **10** but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

Eschatological

Animals

Isaiah 11:6-9 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Land

Amos 9:13-15 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord "when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.

14 I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the Lord your God.

The Nations

Isaiah 2:4 / Micah 4:3 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

All that is broken will be restored to complete and everlasting wholeness (Peace).

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.

The birth of Jesus is the opportunity for wholeness!