

PEACE

The word peace is common in most languages. People can talk about peace treaties or times of peace; it means the absence of war.

And in the Bible, the word peace can refer to the absence of conflict, but it also points to the presence of something better in its place.

Joh 14:27 (TPT) "I leave the gift of peace with you—**my peace**. ...

STOP! Jesus had peace. Think about this. What He was tasked with was the salvation of the entire human race. The weight of responsibility for the whole plan of God was His and His alone. Yet He had peace.

Those He loved rejected Him - Yet He had peace

Those He trusted betrayed Him - Yet He had peace.

He did only good and they labeled Him a criminal - Yet He had peace.

...Not the kind of fragile peace given by the world, but my perfect peace. Don't yield to fear or be troubled in your hearts—instead, be courageous!

The world's peace is easily broken.

Like a peaceful pond without a ripple on its surface all you need do is toss a small pebble and all that peace is disturbed.

But Biblical peace is as strong as is God because God is peace

Jdg 6:24 (NASB) Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it **The LORD is Peace**. ...

Yahweh Shalom.

Isa 9:6 (NASB) For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for peace is **shalom**, and in the New Testament the Greek word is **eirene**.

The most basic meaning of shalom is complete or whole. Nothing broken and nothing missing in us or around us.

The word can refer to a stone that has a perfect whole shape with no cracks.

It can also refer to a completed stone wall that has no gaps and no missing bricks.

Shalom refers to something that's complex with lots of pieces that's in a state of completeness, wholeness.

It's like Job who says his tents are in a state of shalom because he counted his flock and no animals are missing.

Job 5:24 (NASB) "You will know that your tent is secure [shalom], For you will visit your home and have nothing missing.

Shalom provides security. Rest.

You can't rest when you feel insecure, unsafe. But when everything is at peace (Shalom). You are secure and can rest.

This is why shalom can refer to a person's well-being, state of mind and physical, relational, financial and spiritual.

Like when David visited his brothers on the battlefield, he asked about their shalom.

1Sa 17:22 (NASB) Then David left the baggage in the care of the baggage keeper and ran to the battle line. And he entered and **greeted** his brothers.

To me this is interesting cause "greeted" has two parts in Hebrew

Shaal - to earnestly ask, inquire.

Shalom - Peace, wholeness.

For 40 days they had been intimidated, belittled, scared and insulted.

He was asking are you still at peace? Are you still whole? Are you still secure in your covenant with God? Do you still believe?

The enemy of life seeks to disturb your peace by changing your focus.

Your level of peace is determined the object of your focus.

What or who are you paying attention to?

Mat 14:30 (NASB) But seeing the wind **[when he released how high the waves were]**, he became frightened, and when he began to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

All that Peter had to act on was the word "come."

This is the ultimate test of faith, to move on Jesus' word alone.

And Peter stepped over the side of the boat to go to Jesus.

Faith rivets its attention solely on the Master who says "Come."

In the days of Isaiah the Moabites were trusting in their high walls and strong doors - God told His people to trust in HIM.

Open your doors, take a risk, be at peace!

Isa 26:3 (NASB) "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.

Isa 26:3 (NLT) You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Psa 20:7 (MKJV) Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of Jehovah our God.

The Moabites trusted their high walls and their closed gates.

Isaiah told the People God to open their gates, take a risk.

Such a daring venture can be taken because the peace of Jerusalem does not depend on closed gates, but upon a mind fixed on God, the immovable and everlasting rock of salvation

Psa 119:165 (NASB) Those who love Your Law (WORD) have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.

Pro 3:2 (NASB) For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

Pro 3:1-2 (AMPC) MY SON, forget not my law or teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; [2] For length of days and years of a life [worth living] and tranquility [inward and outward and continuing through old age till death], these shall they add to you.

The Word of God infuses Peace into your being

Jesus' Birth Brings Eirene

This is why Jesus's birth in the New Testament was announced as the arrival of eirene.

Luk 2:13-14 (NASB) And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army of angels praising God and saying, [14] "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased."

Through the angel, God tells the shepherds the meaning of this most significant event in cosmic history. The meaning is peace; Jesus' birth is to bring peace, *shalom*, blessedness, fullness.

However, this peace the angels speak of is not for everyone. The Greek word used here for "all people" is *laos*,

Laos was the word used to describe the Israelites, God's special people. We who are the new Israel are the *laos*.

So if your peace is broken what do you do what is the HOW of restoring peace? The angels predicted this peace will come when we give glory to God in the highest

Praise is the Pathway to Peace.

Praise focuses your attention on Christ.

Jesus came to offer his peace to others like when he said to his followers, "My peace I give to you all."

Joh 14:27 (NASB) "Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.

Everything that Jesus is He gave to us.

His JOY He gifted to us.

His PEACE He gave us.

His LOVE, His Words, His Grace all ours.

Christianity is the replication of Christ.

The Goal of Christianity is Christlikeness.

The apostles claimed that Jesus made peace between messed up humans and God when He died and rose from the dead.

The idea is that he restored to wholeness the broken relationship between humans and their Creator.

This is why the apostle Paul can say Jesus himself is our eirene.

He was the whole, complete human that I am made to be but have failed to be, and now He gives me His life as a gift.

And this means that Jesus' followers are now called to create peace.

Paul instructed local churches to keep their unity through the bond of peace, which requires humility and patience and bearing with others in love.

Eph 4:1-5 (NASB) Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, [2] with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3] being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4] There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Becoming people of peace means participating in the life of Jesus, who reconciled all things in heaven on earth, restoring peace through his death and resurrection.

So peace takes a lot of work because it's not just the absence of conflict. True peace requires taking what's broken and restoring it to wholeness,

whether it's in our lives, our relationships, or in our world. And that's the rich biblical concept of peace.

Psa 29:11 (NASB) The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

For Christmas I received Peace Whatcha Get?