



Peace Producing Prosperity

Lesson 3

“**B**ut remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.” (Deuteronomy 8:18)

A good covenant can be a great source of prosperity. After all, if you're not spending all of your energy, money and time fighting with others, then you have that energy, money and time to invest elsewhere. Several studies estimate that global spending for the military in 2020 was 1.9 trillion. What could be done with 1.9 trillion dollars if we weren't having to spend it on war-related purchases?

Well, it's the same amount of money requested for the 2021 COVID stimulus in the USA. With that, millions of dollars could be given to families, businesses, schools, cities, and states (just as one example). You get the idea: If we could live in a world with no war or threat of war, we'd all have more wealth to enjoy.

Okay, back to covenant. When we live in covenant with God, with people, and neighbors, those covenants are designed to allow us to produce wealth. This wealth—this prosperity—blesses us and the generations to follow.

It is God who gave us the ability to produce wealth. Yes, physical, financial wealth. But also relational wealth. Spiritual wealth. Community wealth.

This week's study will delve into the nature of money and how it can come and go for the people of God. We will explore the power of prayer as it relates to prosperity. And more than anything else, we will explore the importance of keeping peace so that everyone may prosper.

Sermon Notes:

Psalm 122 gives us a Biblical understanding of _____ for peace directly impacting the _____ of a _____.

Keys from Psalm 122

- Designed to _____ for worship.
- Notes _____.
- Prosperity requires peace _____.
- Prosperity requires peace _____.
- Prosperity requires peaceful _____.
- Peace _____ in this fashion leads to prosperity.

Jerusalem's high population density meant the _____ were familiar with _____ and the related costs.

- Jerusalem's _____ existed because of familiarity with war.
- _____ is expensive in every aspect of life.

Personal Reflections:

When you think of the toll fighting, arguing, battling, etc. takes on a person, write down three "battles" you are fighting right now. What could be gained if this fighting stopped? What could you reclaim in life if peace could be attained?

Battlefront

With Peace I Could Attain...

Arriving at a point of peace requires mutually beneficial compromises. This is tricky because you can't compromise on core values. For example, the U.S. can't sacrifice free speech of its citizens in an effort to enter an agreement with another nation that forbids free speech. However, nations (and we as people) often won't negotiate on points that are frankly...well...just not critical to life. What are some negotiables you have made non-negotiable and prevent you from having peace with others? Examples may include silly things like sports-team devotion or more serious issues like political opinions.

I think of this as non-negotiable, but it's really not:

- _____
- _____
- _____

One goal of peace is allowing prosperity to bless everyone. What are three ways you would like to experience greater prosperity right now in your life? How could making peace take you in the right direction?

- _____
- _____
- _____

I want greater prosperity in...

(I.e. I want greater richness in my relationships. My attitudes get in the way. If I could be more peaceful towards others, I would enjoy more friendships, deeper relationships, and probably experience more invitations to hang out with friends.)
