

# The Names of God: Prince of Peace

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By Brian Flewelling

## Brand names:

Before I explain where we're going this morning I want to play a little game with you. I want to show you some brand names on the screen and I want you to think to yourself about the reputation that each of these companies and products have developed.

**Slides: 1. Apple 2. Lego 3. Starbucks 4. BMW 5. Crocs 6. New England Patriots**

As a customer your real-life experiences shape how you view that company, that product. In the ancient world, a person's name, their brand, was equivalent to their reputation.

Jacob – Heel Grabber, Conniver Renamed to – one who wrestles with God

This morning we're not here to talk about our reputation, we're here to talk about God's. There are literally dozens of names given to God throughout the scripture. And it's a wonderful study. When we study the names of God, we discover His character – who He is.

- YHVW - I AM WHO I AM - the self existent one.
- Abraham said – YHVW Yireh - He's the God who provides
- Hagar – El Roi - "The God who sees me.
- Moses – YHVW Rophe – He's the God who heals
- Gideon – YHVW Shalom – He's the God of Peace – Wellness for our whole community

Over the next four weeks, as we lean into Christmas, we're going to focus on just four names, and those that especially lead us to this miraculous moment in history that we call Christmas...when God becomes flesh.

## Vision

Every company has a core vision and strategy. What the world looks like impacted by their product and how they are going to accomplish that. Henry Fords vision was to democratize the automobile so that every family could afford an automobile and drive their family into the great open spaces of American.

Your vision for the future tells a lot about who you are, and what you care about, what you're passionate about. Here we see God's vision for planet earth.

## Isaiah 2:2-5

**Slide: God's vision--is for his children (the children of all nations) to know Him and walk in His ways!**

**His Strategy--is to personally mentor you in his word and his ways.**

Until people have God's peace inside of them, we won't have world peace around us.

Outcome: Enduring peace.

In His heart God loves peace. That's His vision.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.

Isaiah 54:10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord.

Isaiah 66:12 For this is what the Lord says: "I will extend peace to her like a river

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now may the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him...

God's vision: Creation in concert with his character. So that what's out there matches what's in here. In union. His character is peace.

So peace starts with a person who changes people.

## Isaiah 9:5-7

Peace starts with a person who changes people.

**You won't have personal peace without the person of peace.**

Without the prince of peace.

Peace comes from unity with God's character, not from my circumstances.

I can experience peace even when my circumstances are out of control.

The Bible, like no other book in the world, illuminates the character of God.

I want us to declare some Biblical truths together.

### Declarations:

Slide:

God is good. He hates selfish ambition and malice.

God is life. He hates destruction and bloodshed.

God is kind. He hates venom and cruelty.

Slide:

God is just. He hates the taking advantage of others, brutality, and abuse.

God is gentle. He hates impatience and violence.

God is sincere. He hates dishonesty, deceit, and slander.

Slide:

God is Father of all. He hates comparison, envy, and striving.

God is provider. He hates poverty, greed, and thievery.

God is truth. He hates deception, lies, and wickedness.

Slide:

God is perfect love. He hates discord, divorce and racism.  
God is perfect peace. He hates fear, anxiety, and the disharmony of sin.

**You need the person of peace in your life.**

I want to speak to someone who is on the fence...or holding the keys of control to your life.  
I want to tell you something your culture won't tell you, your employers, you're family...  
If you're trying to find peace without the person of peace you won't succeed.

- If you're trying to fill your life with successful things you'll never succeed.
- If you're trying to fix the painful things you'll never heal
- If you're trying to fill your life with pleasurable things, the pleasure evaporates and you're left with a prison.
- If you're trying to fill your life with good things it will never be good enough.
- If you're trying to fill your life with people, people will disappoint you.
- I thought that boyfriend was going to complete my life, I thought having 2.5 children, I thought making an impact in my company,

There's a hole in your soul. The problem is we've alienated ourselves from the person of peace.  
And we thought we could pursue our own personal satisfaction on our own terms. Self-comfort. Self-control. Self-promotion. Self-satisfaction. Self-identity.

2700 years ago the prophet nailed us to wall

**Isaiah 53:6**

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own.

**Isaiah 53:5-6**

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed...the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

Notice God defines our straying as rebellion. And our leaving as sin. Many of us were so lost we didn't even know the crime we committed or the punishment we deserved or the substitute payment God had made.

**Romans 5:10**

For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

**Colossians 1:19-20**

For God was pleased...to reconcile to himself all things...by making peace through (Christ's) blood, shed on the cross.

**Romans 5:1**

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

You won't have peace without the person of peace.

This is the meaning of Christmas. God desires peace on earth.

This is the meaning of Easter. There's only one way to get it.

While we were still in our anxieties and rebellion and personal fixations and our politics and heathenism and social societies and violence and depression and emptiness and worldly fascinations...God the peace maker built a bridge to his rebellious children and invited us to walk across and join Him in His perfect presence. That bridge is Jesus Christ. At the end of our service I'll invite you to experience peace for yourself with God.

**You won't have peace without the person of peace, and**

**We experience the depths of his peace when we walk in his paths--When we obey his way.**

**The more I love God, the more I want to walk in His ways.**

He wants to change my heart and mind. He wants to teach me his ways.

Isaiah 2:3 He will teach us His ways so that we may walk in his paths.

Isaiah 2:3 The law (and the word) will go forth

Isaiah 2:4 he will judge between nations... (he brings correction)

Isaiah 9:6 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.

You won't experience an increase of peace without an increase of His government in your life.

**John 14:23; 26-27**

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them...the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

Notice the interplay between Our Obedience – the Holy Spirit teaching – and peace that remains with us

- If you don't follow his guidelines for relational harmony you won't experience relational harmony. You'll reap the sour fruit of broken and divisive relationships.
- I.e. If you don't follow Jesus' teachings on forgiveness you won't receive freedom, peace
- If you don't follow God's financial advice you won't receive the freedom from love of money, or the freedom from the anxiety of not having enough money.
- If you don't follow God's laws about sexual and mental purity you're not going to experience the peace of marital intimacy and unity
- If I don't learn to trust my heavenly father, then when times get tough I will be filled with anxiety, fear, control, worry.

- If I don't spend time reading his word I won't experience the clarity that his truths bring to my life.

God wants to protect us from the sour fruit of our ignorance and sinful choices.

Story of Steven Plaat – unforgiveness, rebellion

**Summary:**

God has a reputation. He is the God of peace. He wants you to experience His Prince of peace. The closer we grow to this Prince the more we taste of His attractively harmonious presence. The closer we grow to him, the more we grow like him by walking in his paths.

**Song:**

**Prayer:**

May the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.  
Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.  
May the God of peace...equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him...