

PEACE

Peaceful Promise

Isaiah 9:6-7

Peaceful Christmas: This year's Christmas series is simply, PEACE. This series is designed to help us understand the relationship between the birth of Jesus and our desire for peace.

Peace: The word appears over 400 times in the Bible. The OT (Hebrew) word is *Shalom* and the NT (Greek) word is *Eirene*. It is a wholeness that encompasses the entire person, circumstances and relationships.

"Sleep in heavenly peace..." Silent Night (1818)

"When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling..."

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (1849)

"Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled..."

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (1739)

"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. 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." Isaiah 9:6-7

Main Idea: The Christmas Promise of Peace is Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Three peaceful promises in Isaiah 9:6-7:

I. Promise of God's Intervention *"The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this" 9:7b*

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Isaiah 1:18

II. Promise of God's Incarnation *"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." 9:6*

The prophecy describes this child, this bringer of *shalom*, in vivid terms:

- **Wonderful:** Exceptional, Distinguished, Matchless, Supernatural
- **Counselor:** Wise, Hopeful, Clear, Communicative
- **Mighty God:** Divine Warrior, Holy One of Israel, Immanuel
- **Everlasting Father:** Eternally Existent, Ancient of Days, Unfailing
- **Prince of Peace:** Prosperous, Protector of People, Tranquillizer

"For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility." Ephesians 2:14

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, God with us)." Matthew 1:23

III. Promise of God's Increase - *"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..." 9:7a*

God's Increase: *"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..." 9:7a*

As we walk with Jesus, we grow in trust, faith, and His peace increases with time!

Horatio Spafford: On November 22, 1873, the ship carrying Spafford's family was struck by an iron sailing vessel killing his four daughters: Annie (12), Maggie (7), Bessie (4), and their 18-month-old sister. Only his wife survived. On Spafford's journey across the Atlantic to join his wife, he wrote the now famous lyrics of the following song...

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.*

*My sin, o the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

*And Lord haste the day, when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

Jesus is the Fulfillment of God's Peaceful Promise this Christmas

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Hughes & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)
- *The Major Prophets* – J.E. Smith (1992)
- *Be Comforted* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Isaiah* – J.F.A. Sawyer (1984)
- *Bible Knowledge Commentary* – J.F. Walvoord & R.B. Zook (1985)
- *Faithlife Study Bible* – J.D. Barry (2012)
- *Commentary on the OT* – C.F. Keil & F. Delitzsch (1996)

