

The Prince of Peace

Introduction

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:8-14 - ⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Will the world ever know real peace?

Of the past 3,400 years, humans **have been** entirely at peace for 268 of them, or just 8 percent of recorded history. At least 108 million people were killed in **wars** in the twentieth century. (Chris Hedges, New York Times)¹ Taking the median estimates of death tolls for various conflicts throughout history, the best estimates put the total death toll due to all wars at 341.7 million people.

How does the advent of Christ give bring peace to the world?

- Notice "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace **to men on whom his favor rests.**"

I. Allow Jesus to be the Prince of Peace of Your Heart

A. We Receive Peace **with** God

It is not possible to have the Peace OF God without making Peace WITH God.

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

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

Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/06/books/chapters/what-every-person-should-know-about-war.html>

Our peace with God was purchased by Jesus on the cross. We just need to receive his salvation.

B. We Receive the Peace of God

- o A peace that comes from knowing that our name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
- o A peace that comes from knowing that our God will never "forsake us or leave us."
- o A peace that comes from a growing relationship with Christ.
- o A peace that comes from the growing assurance that God is in control.

1. We need a better understanding of the "peace of God."

- o From the original language we see how rich and full God's peace is: The word peace is in the NIV 249 times.
 - In the new Testament = "Eirene" (Arana) means rest, tranquility, exemption from the rage and havoc of war, peace between individuals, harmony, and safety.
 - In the Old Testament the Hebrew word is Shalom – means wholeness, order, completeness, health, well-being, soundness, safety, security, prosperity, tranquility, friendship, salvation, and contentment.
- o We experience the peace of God in the midst of troubles.

John 16:33 - "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

He prepares a table of blessings, even in the midst of our enemies.

Our loss with Amber,

"It is Well With My Soul" is one of my 5 favorite hymns. I don't know if you know the story behind it, but the man who wrote it lost his whole family at sea. Successful businessman had sent his family ahead to Europe. The ship went down. And when he received the cable of the loss of his family, he went across the sea himself and had the captain of the ship show him just about the place where his family went down to a watery grave. And as he was standing over the burial site of those that he loved the most in life, he got out his pen and his legal pad, and he wrote those words, "It is well, it is well with my soul." Peace with God that comes through Jesus Christ. Peace of God which is the gift for every believer that knows him.

2. How do we nurture the peace of God?

Like a farmer who grows fruit, we need to prepare our hearts to grow the fruit of peace. We can notice from the scriptures that the peace of God is conditional.

Be in the Word - Psalm 119:165 - Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Pray - Philippians 4:6–7 - ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Surrender - Col 3:15 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Obedience - Isaiah 48:17–18 (NIV84) ¹⁷This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. ¹⁸If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Trust - Isaiah 26:3 - You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

II. Influence Your World with God’s Peace

Ephesians 4:1–3 (NIV84) - As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ²Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Rom. 12:18 - If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 14:19 - Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Hebrews 12:14 - Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

James 3:17–18 - ¹⁷But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

2 Peter 1:2 - May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

This is how Jesus is bringing “peace on earth,” through us!

Conclusion

What about peace in our world today?

We will never escape the violence of this world.

Jesus will return and reign over this world as the Prince of Peace

Notice Isa. 9:7 - "Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end."

Application Points:

- Have you made peace with God? What's preventing you from responding to God's grace today?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how are you doing right now with experiencing the peace of God?
- What daily routine can you incorporate into your life that will increase God's peace?
- What daily routine can you eliminate from your life that will result in greater peace?
- Think of one way you can influence your world with peace and schedule it into your week.

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