

PEACE Like A River

God promised a future of PEACE for Jerusalem

when He establishes His kingdom on earth. In this passage,

the language describes Jerusalem as a mother with children:

Isa 66:10-13 Rejoice ye with Jerusalem,
and be glad with her (Jerusalem),
all ye that love her (Jerusalem):
rejoice for joy with her (Jerusalem),
all ye that mourn for her (Jerusalem):

- 11 • That ye may suck,
• and be satisfied with the breasts of her (Jerusalem's) consolations;
• that ye may milk out,
• and be delighted with the abundance of her (Jerusalem's) glory.

12 For thus saith the LORD,

Behold, **I will extend peace to her (Jerusalem) like a river,**
and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream:

- then shall ye suck,
- ye shall be borne upon her (Jerusalem's) sides,
(.... like a baby being held on his mother's hip)
- and be dandled (played with, fondled, taking delight in by sport)
upon her (Jerusalem's) knees. (.... like a mommy bouncing a
child on her knees, singing "Ride a little horsey, go to town")

13 As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you;
and **ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.**

Isaiah wrote to the nation Israel. But lest you be misled by 'mid-Acts-ers' into thinking that the PEACE of Jerusalem only applies to Israel - we must read the revelation given by God to the apostle Paul (Eph 3:3), who showed that the Heavenly Jerusalem is the Holy Mother of ALL believers:

Gal 4:26 But Jerusalem which is above is free,
which is the mother of us all.

Likewise, Abraham is the father, not of Israel only, but of all believers:

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed (Gal 3:29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.); not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

I rarely do outlines like this study, but it is mine, and not 'pre-fab' out of someone's book. This is 'fresh food.' Today, we will look at **7 POINTS:**

- 1st • The PREACHERS of Peace
- 2nd • The PROVISION of Peace
- 3rd • The PEOPLE of Peace
- 4th • The PATH of Peace
- 5th • The PERSON of Peace
- 6th • The POWER of Peace
- and finally 7th • The PLACE of Peace.

We will begin with **1st The PREACHERS of Peace:**

PETER preached peace for salvation for whoever believed

by faith in Christ's blood just as every one of God's prophets predicted:

Acts 10:36 The word which God sent unto the children of Israel,
preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

Acts 10:43 To him give **ALL** the prophets witness, that through his name **whosoever believeth in him** shall receive remission of sins.

PAUL wrote about preaching the gospel of peace, which is the New Testament of Christ's blood. As we read, notice how the same Greek word <euaggelizo> was translated regarding the coming kingdom of God, and the salvation to be obtained in it through Christ:

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent?
 as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel <euaggelizo> of peace,
and bring glad tidings <euaggelizo> of good things!

Paul was quoting both **Isaiah** (52:7) and **Nahum** (1:15) relating his message with the Old Testament prophets. **ISAIAH** preached peace:

Isa 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that **publisheth peace;** that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Nahum 1:15 Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that **publisheth peace!** O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Yes, **PAUL** preached the 'same' 'prophetic' **gospel of peace** like the prophets did but, with personal identity **in Jesus' name.**

This 'gospel of peace' is part of the saints' armour so they will be equipped to **stand in the evil day** (Eph 6:13, Amos 6:3):

Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of **the gospel of peace;**

JESUS preached peace to His disciples to comfort their fears when He told them He would be leaving soon:

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:** not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Christ reassured His disciples that **HE** was their source of peace:

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace.**
In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

After Jesus was arrested and crucified (and risen), He appeared to His disciples, who were fearful for their lives, just as He had told them not to be:

John 20:19-21 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when **the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews,** came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. **Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.**

21 Then said Jesus to them **again, Peace be unto you:** as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (also **John 20:26, Luke 24:36**)

PAUL wrote that **JESUS IS** our peace.

PAUL wrote that **JESUS** made peace.

PAUL wrote that **JESUS** preached peace.

- By taking away the old testament law
- by taking away the wall of separation that God made under it
between Israel and the rest of the world

He united both circumcision (the near) and uncircumcision (the far) into one:

- Eph 2:14-17** For he (**Jesus**) is our **peace**, who
- hath **made both one**, and
 - hath **broken down the middle wall of partition between us**;
- 15 • Having **abolished** in his (**Jesus'**) flesh the enmity, even **the law of commandments contained in ordinances**; (**the old testament**)
- for to make in himself (**'in Christ'**) of twain (**Jew and Gentile**) **one new man**, so **making peace**;
- 16 • And that **he (Jesus)** might **reconcile both (Jew and Gentile)** unto God **in one body by the cross**,
- having **slain the enmity** thereby:
- 17 • And came and **preached peace** (**Who did? He - Jesus - did.**) to you which were **afar off**, and to them that were **nigh**.

That is what Isaiah prophesied:

Isa 57:19-21 I create the fruit of the lips;
Peace, peace to him that is **far off**, and to him that is **near**, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

Zechariah also prophesied that Christ would preach peace to Gentiles:

Zech 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O **daughter of Jerusalem**: behold, **thy King cometh unto thee**: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.
10 And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and **he shall speak peace unto the heathen**: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth. (**also read Rom 15:8-12**)

The purpose of Jesus' 1st advent was not to bring in world peace. His visit to Planet Earth magnified the difference between believers and unbelievers:

Matt 10:32-36 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men,
 him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.
 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men,
 him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
 34 **Think not that I am come to send peace on earth:
 I came not to send peace, but a sword.**
 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father,
 and the daughter against her mother,
 and the daughter in law against her mother in law.
 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

Now let's look at the **2nd The PROVISION of Peace:**

Paul made it clear that peace is accomplished **because of Christ's death:**

Col 1:19-20 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
 20 And, having **made peace through the blood of his cross**, by him to **reconcile** all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

The prophet Isaiah described the **cost of peace that Jesus paid even before Messiah's (that is, Christ's - John 1:41, 4:25) name was identified:**

Isa 53:4-7 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:
 yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.
 5 But **he** was wounded for **our** transgressions,
he was bruised for **our** iniquities;
the chastisement of our peace was upon him;
 and with his stripes we are healed.
 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; **(Peter quoted this in 1 Pet 2:25.)**
 we have turned every one to his own way;
 and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**
 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth:
 he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shear-
 ers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. **(Paul quoted this in Rom 8:36.)**

God declares us righteous when we believe in the sacrifice of Christ as payment for our sins. He provides peace in our soul:

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith,
 we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ:

God will grace **His people** with peace:

Psa 29:11 The LORD will give strength unto his people;
the LORD will bless his people with **peace**.

God will avenge His people, and give them the earth for their inheritance:

Psa 37:11 But **the meek** shall inherit the earth; (also read Matt 5:5, and Gal 5:22-23; 6:1; Eph 4:2; Col 3:12; 1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:25; Tit 3:2) and shall delight themselves in **the abundance of peace**. (also Psa 72:7)

Psa 37:37 Mark **the perfect man**, and behold the upright:
for **the end of that man is peace**.

Psa 85:8 I will hear what God the LORD will speak:
for **he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints:**
but let them not turn again to folly.

The prophets (Ezek 34:22-26, Isa 54:10, Luke 1:70-79, Num 25:10)

wrote of **the everlasting covenant of peace** God made with His people:

Ezek 37:26 Moreover I will make **a covenant of peace** with them;
it shall be **an everlasting covenant** with them:
and I will place them, and multiply them,
and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.

In time past, Gentiles were **strangers from the covenants of promise:**

Eph 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were **far off**
are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

Paul said now **we Gentiles** have an inheritance among all of God's people:

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and **to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified**. (1st, it was only for Israel, now it's for us also. Read Acts 26:18, Gal 3:18, Eph 1:11-18, Col 3:24.)

Now, **we Gentiles are included in the CHURCH of God** (also read 1 Tim 3:5,15; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 1:2, 10:32; 2 Cor 1:1). We are partakers with Israel's promises; we are one body with them; we should be grateful:

Col 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath **made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints** in light:

Col 3:15 And let **the peace of God** rule in **your** hearts,
to the which also **ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**

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Now we Gentiles are brothers and sisters in Christ with all the family of God:

Eph 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners,
but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Eph 6:23-24 **Peace be to the brethren,** and love with faith, from God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.

Peter, like Paul, wrote of peace to all the saints who are 'in Christ.' Remember, there were also saints who were 'in Christ' **before PAUL** (Rom 16:7):

1 Peter 5:14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity.
Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Let's look at the **4th The PATH of Peace:**

The **river of peace** is clear to those who follow God's principals:

Psa 119:165 **Great peace have they which love thy law:** and nothing
shall offend them. **Just because we are now under grace and not under the
law's condemnation (Rom 6:14, Eph 3:2, John 1:17), faith does not make it
void, but rather, establishes the law (Rom 3:1-30, especially vs. 31).**

Isa 48:18 O that thou hadst **hearkened to my commandments!**
then had thy peace been as a river,
and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Ro 3:31 Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid:
yea, **we establish the law.**

Paul contrasted living after the flesh to being led by God's Holy Spirit:

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death;
but **to be spiritually minded is** life and **peace.** (also James 3:18)

Believers ought not live carelessly, without regard for their testimony:

Rom 14:19 Let us therefore **follow after the things which make for
peace,** and things wherewith one may edify another.

2 Tim 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but **follow** righteousness, faith,
charity, **peace,** with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Heb 12:14 **Follow peace** with all men, and holiness,
without which no man shall see the Lord:

Peter told believers to stay **out** of the way of bad, and **in** the way of peace:

1 Peter 3:11 Let him eschew (go out of the way, avoid) evil, and do good; let him **seek peace, and ensue (earnestly endeavour to aquire) it.**

Now for the **5th The PERSON of Peace:**

Isaiah prophesied of the One which we now know is Jesus, the Christ:

Isa 9:6-7 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God,**
The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.**

7 Of the increase of his government and **peace there shall be no end,**
upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to
establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are united in ONE God - the God of Peace:

Heb 13:20-21 Now **the God of peace,** that brought again from the dead
our **Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep,**
through the blood of the everlasting covenant, (as in Ezek 37:26)

21 Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you
that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be
glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul (see Eph 4:13; Col 1:28, 4:12; 2 Tim 3:17), like other prophets (re-
member Psa 37:37; also see Matt 5:48, 1 Pet 5:10), wrote to "be perfect":

2 Cor 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. **Be perfect,**
be of good comfort, be of one mind, **live in peace;**
and the God of love and **peace** shall be with you.

The better hope is the better testament --- It is the new one, because
the old one could not make anyone perfect (also Heb 10:1, Rom 8:3-4):

Heb 7:19 For **the law made nothing perfect,**
but the bringing in of a better hope did;
by the which we draw nigh unto God.

Heb 7:22 By so much was **Jesus** made a surety of **a better testament.**

The PERSON of peace is the GOD of peace (also see Gal 5:22-23, Eph 4:3).

only HE can destroy evil and bring everlasting peace to His saints (Mal 4:1-3):

Rom 16:20 And **the God of peace** shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. (**Rom 15:33**)

2 Thess 3:16 Now **the Lord of peace** himself **give you peace always by all means.** The Lord be with you all.

Next, we'll see the **6th The POWER of Peace:**

Some time in the future, an **imposter** will come to seduce the people, saying, "Peace." But there will be no peace (Ezek 13:10) because he is anti-Christ. He will work deceitfully and enter in peaceably and obtain the kingdom by flatteries (Dan 11:21-24) but his mission is to destroy:

Dan 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause **craft** (**crafty, deceit, treachery, guile, subtility**) to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and **by peace shall destroy many:** he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

God will not allow the wicked to have peace:

Isa 57:21 There is **no peace**, saith my God, **to the wicked.** (**Isa 48:22**)

Isa 59:8 **The way of peace they know not;**
and there is no judgment in their goings:
they have made them **crooked paths:**
whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

They say peace with their mouth but they are hiding their true motives:

Psa 28:3 Draw me not away with **the wicked**, and with the workers of iniquity, which **speak peace** to their neighbours, **but mischief is in their hearts.** (also read the next 2 verses of Psa 28: 4-5)

God will destroy them according to their wickedness:

Prov 13:13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed:
but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

The apostle Paul also warned the wicked of their impending doom:

1 Thess 4:7-8 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness,
but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that **despiseth (reject, refuse, disregard)**, despiseth
not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

The wicked will feel secure and comfortable in their wickedness

until the Lord's wrath 'takes them out' in judgment of flaming fire:

1 Thess 5:3 For when they (the wicked) shall say,

Peace and safety; then **sudden destruction cometh upon them**,
as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. (also
see **2 Thes 1:7-10, Isa 11:4, Psa 7:6-9; 9:19-20; 10:12-16; 68:1-4**)

They will be claiming peace but with a false security. God will get them:

Isa 42:13-14 The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man,
he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war:
he shall cry, yea, roar;
he shall prevail against his enemies.

14 I have long time holden my peace;
I have been still, and refrained myself:
now will I cry like a travailing woman;
I will destroy and devour at once.

In closing, is the **7th The PLACE of Peace:**

Here we have come 'full circle' with where we began this message. God

has peace planned for Jerusalem and He will bring it to pass in His time:

Psa 102:13 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion:
for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.

Like Jesus instructed His disciples to pray for God's kingdom to come (Luke
11:2), so David prophesied in preparation of God's peace for Jerusalem:

Psa 122:6-8 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

they shall prosper that love thee.

7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

8 For my brethren and companions' sakes,
I will now say, **Peace be within thee.**

God has a set time for Jerusalem to experience HIS peace in HIS day in the day of the Lord in the day of God in the day of Christ:

Isa 26:1-4 In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah;
 We have a strong city;
 salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.
 2 Open ye the gates,
 that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.
 3 **Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,**
 whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.
 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever:
 for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

Looking forward to a peaceful place to rest (Heb 4:9) and spend eternity?

Isa 32:17-18 And **the work of righteousness shall be peace;**
 and **the effect** of righteousness quietness and **assurance for ever.**
 18 And **my people** shall dwell in **a peaceable habitation,** and in **sure**
 dwellings, and in quiet **resting places;** (John 14:2-3, 2 Cor 5:1-4, 2 Thess 1:7)

Remember **Gal 4:26**, that Jerusalem is 'our' mother. We will share in God's deliverance for the earthly Jerusalem, and we will enjoy the heavenly city:

Hag 2:6-9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;
 7 And I will shake **all nations,** and the desire of **all nations** shall come:
 and **I will fill this house with glory,** saith the LORD of hosts.
 8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.
 9 **The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former,** saith the LORD of hosts: and **in this place will I give peace,** saith the LORD of hosts.

Paul told us that God's kingdom is one of peace. We don't spiritualize that:

Rom 14:17 For **the kingdom of God is** not meat and drink;
 but righteousness, and **peace,** and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Wow! To now understand that 'we' (God's people, the church, the body of Christ, the saints, the disciples, Christians, believers, whatever we're called) will be partakers in that inheritance ... what a mighty God we serve!

This is David Dowell, saying, "Think about it!"
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