

# Prince of Peace

***'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'***

**(Isa.9:6)**

**The word 'peace' occurs over 400 times in the Bible, and in every NT book except 1 John**

**What is peace?**

***Shalom* means wholeness in every part**

**Peace is not so much a something as a Someone.**

**Jesus *'Himself is our peace...'* (Eph.2:14)**

## 1) Peace *With* God

- ✓ **Sin broke our fellowship with God. God hates sin with His whole being and has to respond to it in judgment**
- ✓ **Most people do not see themselves as sinners**
- ✓ **'Sin is believing the lie that we are self-created, self-dependent, and self-sustained' (Augustine). We have all chosen to live without Him and walk in our own ways**
- ✓ ***'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'* (Romans 3:23)**

- ✓ **But the gospel is good news. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, because... 'The chastisement for our peace was upon Him...' (Isa.53:5)**
- ✓ **God is reconciled to the world. The gospel is an invitation for us to be reconciled to Him. 'God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God' (2 Cor.5:19-20)**
- ✓ **'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Rom.5:1)**

## **2) Peace *Within***

- ✓ **Peace is not deliverance from stressful circumstances, but the ability to stand composed in the midst of a storm**
- ✓ **Christians and non-Christians have the same problems, but we have the peace of God in the midst of turmoil**
- ✓ **Jesus was asleep in the boat during storm. But He had something the disciples did not have – peace**

- ✓ **He bequeathed this to us.** *'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid'* **(Jn.14:27)**
- ✓ **Peace is the fruit of the Spirit**
- ✓ **Inward peace triumphs over outward circumstances. It defies analysis. It passes all understanding**

The peace of God will do three things for us:

a) Inner peace promotes physical health

b) It will guard our heart and mind. *'...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus'* (Phil.4:7). *'Guard' phroureo = to mount guard as a sentry, to hem in or protect. Like a sentry, the peace of God prevents entry. The peace of God keeps us from going crazy!*

c) It will rule in our heart. *'Let the peace of God rule in your hearts'* (Col.3:15). The peace of God is like an umpire that will rule, overrule, arbitrate and direct us in our decision-making



### 3) Peace *With Others*

#### List of wars in last century

Boer War, 1899–1902

First World War, 1914–1918

Russian Civil War, 1917–1922

Third Afghan War, 1919

Irish War of Independence, 1919–1921

Irish Civil War, 1922–1923

Spanish Civil War, 1936–1939

Arab Revolt in Palestine, 1936–1939

Second World War, 1939–1945

Jewish insurgency in Mandatory Palestine, 1944–1948

Partition of India, 1947

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 1948 onwards

Malayan Emergency, 1948–1960

Yangtze Incident, 1949

Korean War, 1950–1953

Kenya Emergency, 1952–1960

**Cyprus Emergency, 1955–1959**

**Vietnam War, 1955–1975**

**Suez Crisis, 1956**

**Brunei Revolt, 1962–1963**

**Indonesian Confrontation, 1963–1966**

**Aden Emergency, 1963–1967**

**'The Troubles', 1969–1998**

**Falklands Conflict, 1982**

**Gulf War, 1990–1991**

**Sierra Leone Civil War, 1991–2002**

**Bosnian War, 1992–1995**

**Kosovo War, 1998–1999**

**War in Afghanistan, 2001–2014**

**Iraq War, 2003–2011**

**Libya Conflict, 2011–present**

**Syria Conflict, 2011–present**

**Yemen Conflict, 2014–present**

**Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, 2014–present**

**\*Peace on earth?**

**\*The ideal and the real**

**\*'If we want to change the world, we need to start with ourselves'**

**\*However, we can't change ourselves. But Jesus can. He is the Prince of Peace. He can help us to love those we find unlovely; to forgive past hurts and offenses and even reconcile with those we have age-long conflicts with**

**\*He removes barriers which separate people**

**\*First, the vertical barrier, then the horizontal**

## **Example: Jew and Gentile**

***'For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity'  
(Eph.2:14-16)***

*'... made no distinction between us and them,  
purifying their hearts by faith... we believe that  
through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we  
shall be saved in the same manner as they'*  
**(Acts 15:9,11)**

**The distinctions contained in the Law are  
destroyed and there is now one way for all. No  
one can claim special righteousness**

*'There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither  
slave nor free, there is neither male nor female;  
for you are all one in Christ Jesus'*  
**(Gal.3:28)**

**Christ has created a new body of people, not based on law, but on grace**

**The Church is a new creation. Not a coalition of two existing parties but the creation of something altogether new**

**The Gentile doesn't have to become a Jew, and the Jew doesn't have to become a Gentile. Both enter the 'new man'**

**Boast in Him and all distinctions will fade away**

**In Rom.12:18 Paul says, 'If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men'**

**This is a non-absolute. It is something over which you do not have complete control. It is a conditional thing. It depends on the actions and attitudes of others**

**Paul says that we must do all in our power to be at peace with others, yet he recognizes that in some cases that will not be possible, as others will not permit it**

**There will be peace of earth because...**

***'For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end'***

**(Isa.9:6-7)**



***'He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken'***

**(Micah 4:3-4)**