



THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

PRESENT PEACE

Isaiah 9:6-7

WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT PEACE

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace (*shalom*) to his people, to his saints. **Psalm 85:8**

Great peace (*shalom*) have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble. **Psalm 119:165**

A. JESUS IS THE PRINCE OF PEACE - Bearer (ISAIAH 9:6-7)

- Wonderful Counselor - wisdom
- Mighty God - support in the trials of life
- Everlasting Father - comfort
- Prince of Peace - reconciliation to God

B. JESUS BROUGHT PEACE TO HIS FOLLOWERS

(JOHN 14:25-27; MATTHEW 11:28-29) - THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE HELPER/TEACHER (GALATIANS 5:22)

C. GOD'S PROTECTIVE PEACE - GUARDS OUR HEARTS AND MINDS (PHILIPPIANS 4:4-8)

D. THE BLESSING OF GOD'S PRESENT PEACE

(ISAIAH 41:10; 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16)

CALL TO REJOICE (PSALM 29:11)

Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ 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 (*shalom*).

⁷ 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.

John 14:25-27 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest (*anapausin - recreation*) for your souls.

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace (*eirēnē*), patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Philippians 4:4-8 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace (*eirēnē*) of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

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

Psalm 29:11 May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Discussion Questions

1. Read ISAIAH 9:6-7. Which titles or actions stand out to you personally? How has He already begun to show Himself in these ways to you? How can you gain wisdom from the Counselor, protection from the Father, or peace from the Prince today (see v. 6)? Discuss. (*from the Abide Bible*)
2. Read GALATIANS 5:22-23. What disciplines help us develop the fruit of the Spirit in our lives? (faith and obedience). How are you doing in these two areas that develop peace in our lives?
3. Read Isaiah 41:10. What does this verse tell us about God's protective care for us? Discuss.
4. Pray for God to use you this week to be a bearer of His peace.