

Why Jesus? – Because He is The Prince of Peace

12/23/18 – Pastor Randy

Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

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.

Luke 1:30-33

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, **you will** conceive in your womb and **bear a son**, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord **God will give to him the throne of his father David,** ³³ and **he will reign** over the house of Jacob **forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.**"

- Jesus is the child that Isaiah prophesied would be born as a boy, would exhibit a divine character as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.
- Jesus is the "**Prince**" of peace because He is the Son of the Most High. He has come to ascend to the throne of God's Kingdom, ruling over that Divine Kingdom.
- Jesus is the Prince of "**Peace**" because His Kingdom will create a state of peace, or shalom, that will last for all eternity!! It will never end. It remains forever and ever!!

Interview with Calvary Kids about "peace".

Jesus coming to earth was accompanied by a promise; a promise of peace! This peace is associated with Jesus reign as King.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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12/23/18 – Pastor Randy

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth *peace* among those with whom he is pleased.”
- Luke 2:10-14

“...the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “Blessed is the King** who comes in the name of the Lord! **Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!**”**
- Luke 19:37-38

Luke records two announcements, one at Jesus' birth and the other as Jesus entered Jerusalem where he would be crucified and resurrected, where Jesus is hailed as the King who has come to bring peace.

In both instances “peace” is linked with “God’s glory.” Peace brings glory to God and when God is glorified, peace results. It could be argued that “peace”, the condition expressed by the Hebrew word shalom, is the ultimate goal of God’s redemptive work.

But what is “peace”? What kind of peace has Jesus brought to earth?

The Hebrew word translated as “peace” in Isaiah 9:6,7 is “shalom”. Peace, or shalom, exists when things are the way God intends for them to be. Sin is what opposes peace of shalom. Sin is what causes of things not being the way God intended them to be.

Cornelius Plantinga, the author of Christianity Today’s book of the year in 1996 titled *Not the Way It’s Supposed to Be* (Eerdmans, 1995), provided the following insights.

The Hebrew word shalom, which we translate as “peace” is a word that expresses a state of affairs where God’s creation operates according to His intended design. Plantinga sums up the meaning of “shalom” as “the way things ought to be”, with the understanding that they way they “ought” to be refers to the way God designed and intends for them to be. Sin is any human attitude or action that disrupts or resists that state of affairs. Sin is man vandalizing God’s shalom. He writes,

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12/23/18 – Pastor Randy

“God hates sin not just because it violates His law, but...because it violates shalom, because it breaks the peace, because it interferes with the way things are supposed to be. God is for shalom, and *therefore* against sin.”

In Isaiah 9:6,7, our main text for this month, we find that the Messiah’s kingdom will be marked by an eternal peace because it is marked by justice and righteousness. If you don’t have justice and righteousness you don’t have shalom! Shalom occurs when people and the created order are redeemed from the curse of sin.

In 1 John 3:8 we are told why Jesus came 2,000 years ago. “Jesus appeared for this purpose. That he would destroy the works of the Devil.” The context of this verse focuses on the fact that people who have been born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ will not continue to pursue sin. The context makes it clear that the works of the Devil that Jesus came to destroy consist of his work to entice us to sin and make us captives of sin.

The “peace” brought by Jesus is not a mere feeling or calm and serenity. You can feel peaceful without possessing shalom. But when you have shalom, you have serenity instead of fear, justice and righteousness instead of injustice and evil, purity instead of perversion, humility instead of pride, selflessness and generosity instead of selfishness and greed, integrity instead of deception and dishonesty, love instead of hatred, and harmony instead of hostility.

But Pastor, Jesus has come and we still don’t have PEACE!! Things are still not the way they are supposed to be!!! Not yet, but it is on the way.

A. PEACE has begun. The King has come. The kingdom is here. Through Jesus Christ God has begun to restore things to the way they are supposed to be.

1. We have shalom with God already!

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” Romans 5:1

Through faith in the atoning work of Christ we **have been** reconciled to God! Paul wrote to the Christians at Thessalonica, “Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.” Paul’s prayer

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12/23/18 – Pastor Randy

communicates the expectation that because God is a God of peace, a God of shalom, He will, by His Spirit, keep these Christians in a spiritual state of shalom; a condition of spiritual wholeness and holiness.

2. Through the work of the Spirit in the lives of born again Christians ***we are becoming*** the people God designed and created us to be. Shalom is in us!

When Jesus, the Prince of Shalom, restores us to God, the Spirit begins to renew and reform us so that we relate to God the way we are supposed to; that's shalom. Then, the shalom of the Spirit begins to impact our relationships and we begin to relate to our spouse the way we are supposed to, and our siblings the way we are supposed to, and our parents the way we are supposed to and our children the way we are supposed to, and our brothers and sisters in Christ the way we are supposed to. We begin to relate to those who don't know Christ the way we are supposed to, and we begin to steward our personal resources the way we are supposed to. We use our intellectual gifts, social gifts, artistic gifts, spiritual gifts, not the way other people tell us to, but according to the way they are supposed to used according to the purposes, and for the glory of the One who gave them to us. Then finally, we use the resources God has put in us to steward the resources of God's good creation that is around us in the way we are supposed to.

We should care about and work against sexual exploitation, homelessness, hunger, disease, and racism, etc. even though these will be realities around us until Jesus returns. We must call to repentance and faith in Christ while also engaging in good works that restrain evil while we wait for the fullness of shalom to come when the Prince of Shalom comes again to abolish evil!

B. The PEACE yet to come

Shalom will be complete when Jesus returns for us and the curse of sin - which has affected all mankind and the earth itself – is finally broken.

Peter expressed it this way:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

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12/23/18 – Pastor Randy

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. - 2 Peter 5:10-13