

Searching the Scriptures / 58 / Jesus Christ – The Prince Of Peace / Part 3

Most of us are familiar with the title “the Prince of Peace” for the Lord Jesus Christ from Isa 9:6 that is often quoted at Christmastime: *“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...”*

In our lesson today let’s discuss “peace” with these three points:

1. Secular Peace of the World
2. Spiritual Peace with God
3. Spiritual Peace of God

Secular Peace of the World

As “the Prince of Peace” many people think that Jesus came to bring some kind of political or secular peace among nations or groups of people. Another Christmastime passage that seems to confirm that idea is Luke 2:13-14, *“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”* One of man’s greatest desires is to live in peace, or the absence of war and strife. However, wars are the result of man’s sinful nature and will never be abolished on this sin-cursed earth because man’s *“heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked”* according to Jer 17:9. While speaking of the Great Tribulation period prior to His return, Jesus said in Mat 24:6-7 *“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours [reports] of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.”* Here we see that man-made wars and natural catastrophes will continue to take men’s lives on this earth right up to the moment of Christ’s return on the Last Day. So there can be no misunderstanding about this, Jesus dispelled all doubts about His purpose for coming to this earth in Mat 10:34-36 *“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 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. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.”* As God in the flesh, Christ came to bring division and strife – even within families, the closest-knit social units in this world.

Spiritual Peace with God

Why then is the Lord Jesus called “the Prince of Peace” in the Bible? It is because the Bible is a spiritual book about a very important spiritual matter – God’s salvation plan for sinful mankind. Therefore, we must look for the spiritual meaning of that title – and everything else the Bible discusses – in order to come to truth. Most people are unaware that a much more serious war than all the secular wars in the history of man put together is taking place right now. It is the spiritual war between God and rebellious mankind, as we read in Rom 8:7 *“Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* Jesus said He came to bring peace between God and His people in 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.”* The peace that results from salvation is called “peace with God” in Rom 5:1, *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* True believers have peace with God because of the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ at the cross that has “reconciled”

them to God, as explained in 2 Cor 5:19: *“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation [the Gospel]...”* In other words, if we have truly become saved, we are no longer God’s “enemies”, and our war with God has ended, as we read in Rom 5:9-10: *“Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”* Conversely, God has this to say about the unsaved in Rom 3:10 and 17-18: *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one... And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

Spiritual Peace of God

When we have become reconciled to God by salvation, God also gives us the “*peace of God*”, according to Php 4:6-7: *“Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”* In closing, let’s read Isa 32:17-18, *“And the work of righteousness [salvation] shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.”* When we have the “*peace of God which passeth all understanding*”, our souls can rest quietly with God as we trust completely in Him with every aspect of our lives.