

Searching the Scriptures / 60 / Peace Is The Work Of Righteousness / Part 5

Today we want to explore Isa 32:17-18 to learn about these four aspects of peace:

1. The Work of Righteousness
2. Quietness
3. Assurance
4. Peaceable Habitation

The Work of Righteousness

Isa 32:17-18 declares, *“And the work of righteousness 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...”* One might ask, “What exactly is the ‘work of righteousness?’” Any time we see the word “work” in the Bible with regard to salvation, we can know that it has to allude to something that God does. Any work of ours can never be righteous in God’s eyes, as we read in Isa 64:6-7: *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”* The same idea is also delineated in the New Testament in Tit 3:5, *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us...”* The “works of righteousness” were accomplished by God as we learn from Isa 61:10, *“I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.”*

Quietness

We saw in Isa 32:17 that the *“work of righteousness shall be peace”*. Then it says, *“the effect of righteousness quietness... forever”*. What is the “quietness” that this verse speaks about? It is the effect of righteousness, or salvation. The Hebrew word for “quietness” is also commonly translated as “rest”. Isa 30:15 states, *“For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength...”* A different Hebrew word for “rest” is used in this verse, and still another is found in Isa 11:10, *“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”* Another aspect of salvation and yet another word meaning “rest” is translated as “still” in Psa 23:2, *“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”* After we have received salvation, God leads us to the “still [or quiet] waters” to drink of the Water of Life – the Gospel – and to “green pastures” where we feed upon the Word of God. I am reminded of the Good Shepherd in John 10:9 who said, *“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”*

Assurance

Let’s continue in Isa 32:17-18, *“And the work of righteousness 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...”* What does “assurance for ever” signify? As we have been learning, we need to compare “spiritual things with

spiritual” – the biblical blueprint that God has given us in 1 Cor 2:13 for studying the Bible. The Hebrew word for “*assurance*” is usually rendered “*safely*” or “*safety*”; and its root word is almost always translated as “*trust*”. We read about the Israelites who were “*safely*” delivered by God (a picture of salvation) out of the hand of Pharaoh (a picture of Satan), and in the process He destroyed the Egyptian army (a picture of unbelievers) in Psa 78:53: “*And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.*” Psa 16:9 affirms the hope of the resurrection and the promise that God the Father made to God the Son that His soul would not be left in Hell, “*Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.*” The word for “*assurance*” is translated in this passage as “*hope*”.

Peaceable Habitation

Today we learned that the “*work of righteousness*” is peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Also, the “*effect*” of that eternal peace that God has secured for His people is eternal rest and safety, which will always belong to each child of God. But how does the Bible define the phrase in Isa 32:18, “*And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation...*”? This is the same word for “*peace*” that we saw in verse 17. It is the Hebrew word *shalom* <07965> from which King Solomon’s name is derived, and he is a great representation of the Prince of Peace, the Lord Jesus Christ. The word for “*habitation*” describes the place where believers dwell and is also rendered, as a “*sheepcote*”, or “*fold*”, where sheep are protected. John 10:16 states, “*And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*” May God have mercy on many who are listening to His Word, and grant them that eternal peace and rest found only in the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.