

December 21, 2014

Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6-7 THE MESSAGE

For a child has been born — for us!

the gift of a son — for us!

He'll take over

the running of the world.

His names will be: Amazing Counselor,

Strong God,

Eternal Father,

Prince of Wholeness.

His ruling authority will grow,

and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.

He'll rule from the historic David throne

over that promised kingdom.

He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing

and keep it going

With fair dealing and right living,

beginning now and lasting always.

The zeal of GOD -of-the-Angel-Armies

will do all this.

Isaiah writes, And He shall be called Sar Shalom; The Head Person or Prince of Shalom.

The Hebrew word SHALOM is understood around the world to mean peace. But peace is only one small part of the meaning of the word SHALOM. In Israel they use the word SHALOM on a daily basis. They use it to greet people, and to bid them farewell. However, SHALOM means much more than peace, or hello or goodbye.

I have come to know Rabbi Joel at Temple Beth-El here in Patchogue. I love calling the temple, because they answer the phone with, SHALOM. I don't know if it is just a greeting to them, but to me I think of the full meaning.

SHALOM means: Completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord.

It is any wonder that I would be blessed to have SHALOM pronounced over me? Because every time they say Shalom to me I allow the full meaning of SHALOM to be pronounced over me. This greeting word would be much more beneficial to the American people if they greeted each other with SHALOM instead of "Hi" or "Hey" greeting. And as Christians and followers of Messiah Jesus, we are called to bless others. If we really want to take that seriously, we should pray over others and greet them with SHALOM, with its full meaning in mind. Wouldn't that be much better than

“hello?” What does hello even mean? I read one place that hello comes from a French word that roughly means, “Whoa there!” What kind of blessing is that? When someone says SHALOM to you, you should receive it as a tremendous blessing. And bless them back with a hearty SHALOM!”

Since SHALOM means completeness or perfectness it is no wonder that Sar SHALOM (Prince of Peace) is one of the descriptive names Isaiah uses (and is used in other places in the Bible) to indicate the ministry and personality of the Messiah, the Son of God Who is completely perfect in all things.

But what does Shalom, often translated as “peace,” mean for us? It comes from the verb shalam meaning to “restore” in the sense of replacing or providing what is needed in order to make someone whole and complete. Wow, did you get that? If you are not experiencing completeness, wholeness, fullness, rest, peace you need to be restored by replacing or providing what is needed in order to make you whole and complete, at rest and at peace.

Matthew 19:16-22 NIV

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” [this man wanted life, everlasting life, and wanted to know what he could do to achieve it.]

“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. [Jesus is turning this man’s attention from trying on his own to achieve meaningful life and pointing him to the only source of eternal life, God.] If you want to enter life, obey the commandments.”

“Which ones?” the man inquired. [For the Jews had hundreds of commandments] Jesus replied, “Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.”

“All these I have kept,” the young man said. [Oh, those commandments, no problem I’ve kept those. Really? He may have thought more highly of himself than he ought. But before God reveals our heart / our true selves to us we tend to think we are basically good people. So here is his question. He says I have kept the commandments, I have tried to be a good person, I’m religious but look at his next question] “What do I still lack?” [He knew something was still missing from his life. You can be religious, or not religious, you could be a be good person or not a good person, you could be trying to keep the 10 commandments or not trying to keep the 10 commandments and sense that something is missing in your life. There is still no peace in your soul. What is life all about: get up, go to work, come home, have dinner, watch a little TV, go to sleep, the next day do it all again. There’s got to be more to life than that. Maybe getting married is it, maybe having kids is it, maybe it’s having more fun, maybe it’s not thinking of how empty I am by numbing it with drugs, alcohol, food, pornography, maybe making more money and have more things

maybe that's it. It is interesting what Jesus says to this man, Jesus may not say this to everyone, he says this specifically to this man]

Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, [guess what the Greek word translates to literally: complete! If you want to be complete, whole, if you want peace within] go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." [why does Jesus tell this man to sell his possessions and follow, because his wealth was taking the place of what he really needed to find life and peace for]

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

The man needed to turn from things he thought would quench his emptiness like religion, like trying to be "good", like wealth or material things and do what? What did he need to do to find wholeness? What did Jesus say? "Follow Me!"

*Peace* is "the spiritual harmony brought about by an individual's restoration with God." *God as the Source of Peace*. God alone is the source of peace, for he is "Yahweh Shalom"

Judges 6:24

And Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and named it Yahweh-Shalom (which means "the LORD is peace").

Something is missing from our lives keeping us from experiencing wholeness and peace. What is missing is God. Christmas is about God coming in the person of Jesus, the Prince of Peace to restore the wholeness we crave.

Christmas is about Jesus being born in us. The Lord came to sinful humankind, historically first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles, desiring to enter into a relationship with them. He established with them a covenant of peace, which was sealed with His presence.

Numbers 6:24-26

'May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

The Lord's Presence is peace. Even in the midst of difficult times. Participants were given perfect peace so long as they maintained a right relationship with the Lord...

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Peace/rest/wholeness in our soul is the result of a relationship with God, a relationship that is built on trust.

### 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation. The Lord be with you all.

The Old Testament anticipated, and the New Testament confirmed, that God's peace would be mediated through a messiah (as our text indicates – Messiah is Prince of peace & also)

### Micah 5:4-5

And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world. And he will be the source of peace.

Peace with God came through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our faith and trust in Him:

### Romans 5:1

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.

### Colossians 1:19-20

For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

### Acts 10:36

This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Being made right with God, a righteousness that comes by faith, had brought peace. David put it poetically in ...

### Psalms 85:10

Unfailing love and truth have met together.  
Righteousness and peace have kissed!

### Romans 2:9-10

There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile.

Now a brief look at Isaiah 9:7:

His ruling authority will grow,  
and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings.  
He'll rule from the historic David throne  
over that promised kingdom.

He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing  
and keep it going  
With fair dealing and right living,  
beginning now and lasting always.  
The zeal of GOD -of-the-Angel-Armies  
will do all this.

The zeal of God will do all this. It is the desire, the passionate commitment of God to bring us wholeness / peace.

Wonderful Counselor is our Mighty God  
Everlasting Father is Prince of Peace

Because the Child born at Christmas is the All-knowing & All-powerful Mighty God He is the Wonderful Counselor and Deliver.

Because the Child born at Christmas is the Ever-present Comforter (Everlasting Father) The All loving and compassionate Lord, He is the Prince of peace, the Giver of wholeness.

Who is this "Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace?" He is the only one who can meet the deepest desires of your heart. He is the One who can provide peace with God and peace from God. You can trust Him. If you want to exchange your anxiety for the peace, receive the greatest gift you can have here on earth; wholeness, completeness in Christ and the calm assurance that what God is doing is the best.

Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,  
"Glory to God in highest heaven,  
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Of course, we will always exist in this world of persecution, terrorism, poverty and suffering. Jesus was not promising to end wars between nations, wars between races or wars between political parties. Rather, He was promising that we can stand on the everlasting promises of God. We can trust Him even in the most dire and trying situations. For He is the Prince of peace.