

Peace on earth

THERE are 14 Greek terms for the word peace in the Bible that can be translated in English as soundness, safety, security, welfare, harmony, concord, assurance, prosperity, good health, completeness, and peace. The primary and basic idea of the biblical word "peace" (Hebrew: shalom; Greek: eirene) is completeness, soundness, wholeness. It is a favorite biblical greeting (Gen. 29:6; Luke 24:36), and is found at the beginning or towards the end of the New Testament epistles except James and 1 John.

To this day it is one of the commonest words among the Semites. Dismissal is also expressed by the word (1 Samuel 1:17). It means cessation from war (Josh. 9:15). Friendship between companions is expressed by it (Gen. 26:29; Ps. 28:3), as well as friendship with God through a covenant (Num. 25:12; Isaiah 54:10). Contentment or anything working toward safety, welfare, and happiness is included in this concept (Isaiah 32:17-18) of temporal and variable peace.

Peace has reference to health, prosperity, well-being, security, as well as quiet from war (Eccles. 3:8; Isaiah 45:7). The prophet Isaiah pointed out repeatedly that there will be no peace for the wicked (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21), even though many of the wicked continually seek to encourage themselves with a pseudo peace from the world (Jeremiah 6:14).

Peace is a concept with two distinct meanings. On the one hand it can be defined negatively as the absence of war and hostility; while the other suggests the idea of harmony and wholeness achieved through a proper relationship with God. Attempts to achieve the cessation of war have taken varying and sometimes paradoxical forms. The attempt to maintain worldwide peace through military strength of the superpower nations is no longer a new concept in this world.

The 200 years Pax Romana of the Roman Empire (from the reign of Augustus to that of Marcus Aurelius, 27 BCAD 180) was achieved through military strength and military parity between states is often cited as a guarantee of peace.

The United States of America has adopted this strategy to gain control of the entire world. Numerous peace movements have risen after World War II but have tended to concentrate on nuclear weapons. Other organizations devoted to peace are either wholly pacifist or merely opposed to escalation of war.

After the Vietnam War, the peace activist's loss their political impact because of manipulation of the most powerful nations in the United Nations. Peace is a condition of freedom from strife whether internal or external. Security from outward enemies (Isaiah 26:12), as well as calm of heart for those trusting God (Job 22:21; Isaiah 26:3), is included.

Peace is so pleasing to the Lord that the godly are enjoined to seek it diligently (Zech. 8:16, 19). It is to be a characteristic of the church Age believers also (Mark 9:50; 2 Cor. 13:11).

Peace is a comprehensive and valued gift from God, and the promised and climaxing blessing in messianic times (Isaiah 2:4; 9:6-7; 11:6; Micah 4:1-4; 5:5). "To hold one's peace" means simply to be silent (Luke 14:4). The words in the Hebrew: haras and the Greek: siopao have nothing in common with the words now under consideration. Peace is a mental attitude developed by resident Bible doctrine.

In the New Testament the word has reference to the peace which is the gift of Christ (John 14:27; 16:33; Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:7). The word is used many times to express the truths of the mission, character, and gospel of Christ. The purpose of Christ's coming into the world was to bring spiritual peace with God (Luke 1:79; 2:14; 24:36; Mark 5:34; 9:50).

There is a sense in which he came not to bring peace, but a sword (Matt. 10:34). This has reference to the struggle with every form of sin. Christ's life depicted in the Gospels is one of majestic calm and serenity (Matt. 11:28; John 14:27). The essence of the gospel may be expressed in the term "peace" (Acts 10:36; Eph. 6:15), including the peace of reconciliation with God (Rom. 5:1) and the peace of fellowship with God (Gal. 5:22; Phil. 4:7) which refers to peace with God through the spiritual death of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The innumerable blessings of the Christian revolve around the concept of peace. The gospel is the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15). Christ is our peace (Eph. 2:14-15); God the Father is the God of peace (1 Thessalonians 5:23). The inalienable privilege of every Christian is the peace of God (Phil. 4:9) because of the legacy of peace left by Christ in His death (John 14:27; 16:33) in behalf of the believers.

The atonement is both universal and unlimited but the only beneficiaries are the believers. To summarize, the peace of God (Philippians 4:7, Colossians 3:15) refers to Christ's finished work of redemption. That is the reconciliation with God, the justification that Christ completed on a cross for all members of the human race but beneficial only to Christians.

The peace with God is the result of His finished work on the cross for man [Romans 5:1].

All the recipients of the free gift of salvation through their simple and non-meritorious faith have peace with God that is the effect of Christ's spiritual death for the human race [Romans 1:7, 1 Corinthians 1:3, Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Titus 1:4, Philippians 1:2].

The peace of God refers to the only source of peace for the believers trapped in Satan's cosmic system. The peace in this context is not something men have derived from within themselves, from others or from something.

God is God of peace whether there is peace or wars in the world [Romans 15:33, 16:20, Philippians 4:9, Hebrews 13:20]. The peace of God is not dependent on the situation of the world but on the perfect character of God.

God is our peace regardless of our situations, and we cannot expect peace from anyone else but from the King of Peace alone [Ephesians 2:14, Hebrew 7:2]. Believers have peace in the midst of chaos.

The "peace" of 2 Thess. 5:3 is referred to pseudo peace that is human good works motivated by old sinful nature and inspired by Satan. God will frustrate this man-made peace during the Great Tribulation. All the man-made peace in this world can produce only more troubles rather than provide genuine peace.

God cannot provide the kind of peace familiar in the world, the peace that comes from material success and prosperity.

God cannot provide the kind of peace familiar in the world, the peace that comes from material prosperity and success. The peace that the world can give is temporal, variable and unpredictable.

Genuine inner peace that comes from God is available to every believer at the point of spiritual maturity. It is the peace that comes from knowing God and His happiness (John 14:27, 16:33) through consistent and progressive intake of Bible doctrine.

One world government cannot secure peace but chaos and crisis. Ecumenicalism cannot provide peace but rather division and faction. No political body can provide peace to antagonistic people around the globe. No agency or institution composing of unfriendly, violent, and angry people can provide peace. Peace comes from God, perceived and absorbed by believers who are diligent in studying Bible doctrine.

Genuine maturing believers are the target of more satanic assaults than the unbelievers but at same time, they experience the peace that comes from God. The peace of God is not restricted to any place, even in the middle of chaos and conflict; the believer can experience the peace that passes all understanding.

The peace of God is always available to any believer inside the will, purpose and plan of God. Every believer is responsible to know, understand and apply the Word of God.

Peace is the result of knowing and living according to the divine protocol. Genuine inner happiness is only available through intake, assimilation and application of Bible doctrine. There is no happiness apart from God and the Word of God. Seek God through His infallible Word and you can find genuine peace.

The word “shalom” or “peace be unto you.” It was not a mere formality, but a real blessing. The peace He gives to us is of such a nature that the prosperity of the world cannot give it, nor can the evil of the world take it away.

Our Lords gifts satisfy the soul for all of time and eternity, while the world gives lying vanities, and that which will entrap us. Our Lord gives substantial blessings, which will never fail us; the world gives and takes away.

The world’s peace begins in ignorance, consists with evil and sin, and ends in endless troubles; Christ’s peace begins in grace, consists with grace and ends in everlasting peace. Anything that robs you of peace of mind robs you of life’s greatest wealth.

When you understand this divine viewpoint and the fact that you are accepted with God forever, you will stop struggling and begin to enjoy peace with God. The work or fruit or production of righteousness will be peace, shalom = completeness, soundness, prosperity, peace, tranquility, contentment, real inner peace because of our acceptance with God.

The adult spiritual believer knows his peace arises from a consciousness of his sins being forgiven and his guilt being put away; he has peace with God, because he is justified.

If you have the ultimate manifestation of this peace in your life, it begins with you having peace with God, a relationship with the love and integrity of God.

A constant and unchangeable peace can be yours, no matter what the circumstances. Peace refers to the tranquil state of the soul being assured of salvation and fearing nothing from God and being content with the relationship that exists. If you have the ultimate manifestation of this peace in your life you will be at peace with others (Acts 7:26, Rom. 12:18).



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