

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Isaiah 9:6

INTRODUCTION

- Australia is in the midst of a “mental health crisis”
- In 2022, suicide rates increased, with the biggest increase in Victoria, up 9%
- The world is in a state of turmoil and anxiety, with “men's hearts failing them for fear” (Luke 21:26)
- Governments are some of the main propagators of this fear, creating crises as the means of controlling the population
- People are desperate to find peace, and are vainly searching for it in the world
- Many are turning to eastern meditation, others to drugs and alcohol, relationships, entertainment, etc.
- There are many deceivers in the world saying “Peace, peace, when there is no peace” (Jeremiah 6:14; 8:11; Ezekiel 13:10)
- The man of sin will arise promising peace to the world, making peace covenants, winning the worship of the multitudes (Revelation 6:2)
- The modern “peace symbol” is an ancient Norse rune signifying death and war
- In time, all such “peace” will prove to be a lie, but most people will realise it too late
- There *is* a true and lasting peace, and it can only be found in God, and the Lord Jesus Christ – the Prince of Peace
- This is the fifth and last of the names of the Messiah given in Isaiah 9:6
- Isaiah prophesied to a people who were under continual threat from enemy nations, and so a prophecy of a coming ruler who would bring them peace would have been encouraging
- But this was no ordinary King – his rule would be universal, and eternal (v.7)
- Yet for a God-fearing Jew, this was already known to them – the coming of the Messiah to bring peace to the world had been repeatedly prophesied
- Christ is called “Shiloh” – the Peacemaker (Genesis 49:10)

- In the Psalms (2,72) his everlasting kingdom of peace is described in great detail
- What might have been surprising to the Jews of Isaiah's day was the revelation that this Prince of peace was both the eternal God, but also a child who would be born
- He is the Son of God and the Son of Man – two natures, divine and human, united in one Person
- The word for "Prince" (*sar*), refers to one who has authority or bears rule; it denotes the head, chief, captain, lord
- The Lord Jesus Christ is called the Prince of princes (Daniel 8:25), Messiah the Prince (Daniel 9:25), the Prince of life (Acts 3:15) and a Prince and Saviour (Acts 5:31)
- The word for "Peace" (*shalom*), indicates health, prosperity, welfare, and spiritually, man in restored fellowship with God, enjoying his favour (Numbers 6:24-26)
- God is called Jehovah-Shalom – the LORD is peace, or the LORD send peace (Judges 6:24)
- The Prince of Peace is the God of Peace (Romans 15:33; 16:20; Philippians 4:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:20), who grants his matchless peace to all who come unto him

I. HE IS PRINCE OF PEACE IN HIS RECONCILIATION OF SINNERS

A. Man fell from a state of peace with God through sin

1. In his state of innocence, Adam enjoyed perfect peace and communion with his Creator
2. The fall destroyed this peace, bringing man into a state of enmity with God (Colossians 1:21)
3. All of us enter this world condemned as guilty law-breakers; under God's wrath and anger; helpless to save ourselves from everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord
4. Before we can receive the good news of peace through Christ, the message we need to hear is "be troubled, ye careless ones!" (Isaiah 32:11; Amos 6:1)

B. Jesus Christ brings peace between God and man through his death

1. At his birth, the angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:14)

2. He reconciles sinners to God by his death (Romans 5:10)
 3. Justification is the work of grace whereby God accepts sinners as righteous in his sight through Christ's imputed righteousness
 4. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1)
 5. In Jesus Christ "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psalm 85:10)
 6. The blood of Christ brings us nigh to God (Ephesians 2:13; Colossians 1:20)
- C. When a man has peace with God, he is then able to have peace with his fellow-man
1. Peace in the home
 2. Peace in the church

II. HE IS PRINCE OF PEACE IN HIS RENEWING OF SAINTS

- A. The believer who has received peace *with* God through justification, now can receive the peace *of* God through sanctification
1. "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 32:17)
 2. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3)
 3. As a Shepherd, he makes his sheep to lie down in green pastures, and leads them beside the still waters (Psalm 23:2)
- B. We can have peace in tribulation
1. Christ showed he has power over the wind and waves, commanding, "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:36-41)
 2. When Christ prepared to leave this world, he said to his disciples, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John 14:27)
 3. God does not promise to remove our trials and tribulations, but to give us his peace in the midst of them (John 16:33)
- C. We can have peace in death
1. Through Christ, death has lost its sting, and the grave its victory (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

2. Those who die in the Lord are blessed in death (Revelation 14:13)
3. Though the wicked may appear to depart this world peacefully (Psalm 73:4), they immediately pass into the torments of hell (Luke 16:23)
4. The faithful martyrs met their deaths filled with the peace of God that passes understanding (Acts 7:55)

III. HE IS PRINCE OF PEACE IN HIS REIGN AS SOVEREIGN

- A. Presently, man's hostility to the Gospel means that Christ and his message *divides* and brings a *sword*, rather than peace (Matthew 10:34; Luke 12:51)
- B. Christ effected peace for his people at Calvary, but it will only be fully realised at his Second Coming and Millennial Kingdom
 1. The prophecy of Isaiah 9 awaits future fulfilment
 2. In that day, all wars will cease (Isaiah 2:4)

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus Christ is the Prince of peace, but only the redeemed will experience that peace
2. "There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked" (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21)
3. Do you have peace with God? Have you been reconciled to God through repentance and faith?
4. Can you say that you have the peace of God which passes all understanding, keeping your heart and mind? (Philippians 4:6-7)
5. How sad it is that there is true and lasting peace available to multitudes, yet they refuse to receive it! (Luke 19:41-42)
6. Those who belong to God reflect their Father's nature by being peacemakers
7. "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9)
8. As Christians, we are to follow peace with all men, and lead quiet and peaceable lives (Romans 12:18; 14:19; 1 Timothy 2:2; 2 Timothy 2:22; Hebrews 12:14)
9. In a world that is becoming rapidly less peaceful, we have the blessed privilege to publish peace to the world by preaching the gospel of peace (Nahum 1:15; Romans 10:15; Ephesians 6:15)