

Genesis 14.18-19

The King of Peace

Perhaps the most pressing question of every age is how to obtain peace. We need it, it always seems to be lacking, and the Bible promises it to us. But it is important to understand that God speaks of peace from a different perspective than we do. When we speak of peace, we think of contentment, satisfaction, ease, quiet; it evokes a longing in us, when we experience it, peace is fleeting, it is passing it leaves a flavor that we want but which it out of our grasp for long... God speaks of peace without the longing, for He has all that He will ever need or want. His will is perfect and is always fulfilled. God speaks of peace from a perspective of GIVING it! He offers peace, He commends Himself to us as the source of all peace and reminds us that peace with Him is the only lasting and true peace to be found. This truth is bound up in our understanding of just who was dealing with Abram. This King of Salem, the King of Peace.

The King of Righteousness is the King of Peace.

Melchizedek means King of Righteousness
King of Salem, Salem means peace

I. PEACE DEFINED NEGATIVELY

It can be helpful to understand something by defining it both negatively and positively. By studying both what it lacks and what it possesses. We will begin by expressing it negatively.

a. Its basic lack

Romans 8.5-8

- i. We set our minds on the flesh
 - ii. We are at war with God
 - iii. We hate His law and refuse to walk in it
 - iv. We pursue our death in every moment of our life
- b. Recognize that sometimes if we are at war with God, God is also at war with us...

Isaiah 45:7(NKJV)

⁷ I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these *things*.'

Isaiah 59:8(NKJV)

⁸ The way of peace they have not known, And *there is* no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace.

c. Universally absent –

Ephesians 2.1-3

Isaiah 57:21(NKJV) ²¹ “*There is* no peace, ”Says my God, “for the wicked.”

II. PEACE DEFINED POSITIVELY

So if that defines its lack, what then are the things peace possesses? How do we understand its presence?

a. Knowing and loving the Law of God –

Psalm 119:165(NKJV)

¹⁶⁵ Great peace have those who love Your law,
And nothing causes them to stumble.

- b. Knowing and loving the God of the Law –

Isaiah 26:3(NKJV)

³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.

- c. Receiving from God the fullness of His peace and all that comes with it –

Philippians 4:7(NKJV)

⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- d. Knowing the peace that comes from not fearing –

Psalm 4:8(NKJV)

⁸ I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

e. Resting in the God who promises to fight our battles –

Exodus 14:14(NKJV)

¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.”

III. PEACE ACQUIRED ONLY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

a. God promised Him long ago

Isaiah 9.6-7

b. It is only Christ who can heal the breach, and we must believe that God will do all He promised. It is all of faith!

Romans 5.1-2

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

c. It is God Himself who chooses to establish this covenant of peace with us. - Remember that Melchizedek is the one who came out to meet with Abram...

Ezekiel 37:26(NKJV)

²⁶ Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

d. Jesus Christ establishes this peace with His own flesh and death in our place.

Ephesians 2:14-15(NKJV)

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,

IV. TEACHING PEACE –

Most Hebrew scholars agree that Salem is Jerusalem. Jerusalem means teaching of peace... There are a couple of ways in which we teach peace that are worth noting:

a. Teaching peace in Doctrine

Isaiah 66:12–13(NKJV) ¹²

For thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream. Then you shall feed; On *her* sides shall you be carried, And be dandled on *her* knees.¹³ As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

1. This is where the sacrifices were made
2. This is where the final sacrifice of Jesus was made, accepted and ratified by God Himself

3. This is where the cradle of the Gospel was established and this where God still promises to bless His child Israel with the peace that they have still rejected –

Romans 11.26-36

- ii. Blessing of peace with God – We are to pray for the peace of God to be extended to all. Remember that HE is the initiator of that peace and it is to HIM that we appeal first and most. Yes, we appeal to men, we plead with them and teach the truth of the Gospel, but God is the only one who can change hearts!

1Thessalonians 5:23(NKJV) ²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- iii. Teaching the blessing of peace with our words and our works. The message and the hope of peace should be the constant refrain of our

lives. The constant stream of our thoughts and our words.

Numbers 6:23–27(NKJV) ²³ “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them:²⁴ “The Lord bless you and keep you;²⁵ The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;²⁶ The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’²⁷ “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

- b. Teaching Peace with Practice – Doing that which leads to peace... this will often require sacrifice on our part...
 - i. Abram surrendered a tithe to the King of Peace... so too must we surrender for the sake of the king of Peace –

Hebrews 7:2(NKJV) ² to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated

“king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” -

- ii. Let our lives be seasoned with that Gospel so that we are vessels of peace –

Mark 9:49–50(NKJV) ⁴⁹ “For everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt. ⁵⁰ Salt *is* good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another.”

- iii. Let us also pursue actively peace one with another and give no place for the devil to divide us, for our peace amongst ourselves is the seed of the peace of the gospel that we sow in all our ways. –

Romans 14:19(NKJV) ¹⁹ Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

iv. Let us remember that God commands that His church reflects His nature, both in practice and in purpose...

1Corinthians 14:33(NKJV) ³³ For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.