



Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT):

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 declares that Jesus will be the Prince of Peace. In context, this means that Jesus is the source, originator, the one in control of dispensing peace. He is a peace dealer, He is a King who is establishing Peace.

These will be His royal title:

- Prince of Peace.
- The declaration of the angels: Peace on Earth, good will to all men.
- His own words - My Peace I leave with you.

We would not be wrong to consider the Jesus is actively in the business of bringing Peace.

What is peace, truly?

Common definition: Peace is a multifaceted concept meaning tranquility, harmony, and freedom from conflict, encompassing inner calm, harmonious relationships, and the absence of war or violence, extending beyond mere quiet to include justice, dignity, and well-being for all. It can be an internal state (peace of mind) or an external condition (public order, global harmony).

I would contend that for our study, Peace is a word that we must understand from a biblical lens. The word we are considering here is, *Shalom*.

In picture form, it brings four forms to the forefront:

- Mem - chaos
- Vav - attached
- lamed - authority
- Shin - destroy

Together these bring a definition for the word, '*shalom*,' - "destroy the authority attached to chaos." That is what peace is. It is the work of destroying the authority that is attached to chaos. That is what Jesus came to do. That is what he is actively doing in our lives.



I want to shift us to Proverbs for the second part of this study. I have spent most of my life in the Proverb of the day. It was a journey I began at age 9, when Brother John Mall (told you I grew up Pentecostal) challenged me to this discipline. He bent down and said, "Do you want to learn how to live?" I responded, "yes," and to that he said, "Then read Proverbs everyday. There are 31 chapters, one for each day of the month." I took to it. What I discovered was this incredible promise in the first couple paragraphs of chapter 1 hooked me.

Proverbs 1:2-7 (NLT):

"The purpose of these proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand wise sayings. Through these proverbs, people will receive instruction in discipline, good conduct, and doing what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will make the simple minded clever. They will give knowledge and purpose to young people. Let those who are wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. And let those who understand receive guidance by exploring the depth of meaning in these proverbs, parables, wise sayings, and riddles. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline."

Today is the 28th. So, let's look at Proverbs 28.

Proverbs 28:1-9 (NLT)

"The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions. When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But wise and knowledgeable leaders bring stability. A poor person who oppresses the poor is like a pounding rain that destroys the crops. To reject the law is to praise the wicked; to obey the law is to fight them. Evil people don't understand justice, but those who follow the Lord understand completely. Better to be poor and honest than to be dishonest and rich. Young people who obey the law are wise; those with wild friends bring shame to their parents. Income from charging high interest rates will end up in the pocket of someone who is kind to the poor. God detests the prayers of a person who ignores the law."

To verse 25 (NLT)

"Greed causes fighting; trusting the Lord leads to prosperity."

It is a simple verse, but I believe it fortifies our peace conversation.



Arrogant - The word means to broaden, or rise up. It is rooted in the idea of defiant power or defiance.

Stir up - to excite oneself against something, to engage in strife, to to excite oneself against a foe, or to wage war strife.

A contest or quarrel - contention or discord.

If we put this all together it paints a picture of a person who, through an inflation of self, becomes defiant against honor and protocol by engaging in quarrel, contention, and strife causing discord.

Honor and protocol?

Our attitude and behavior towards others. They are to be governed by the nature of Christ, not our emotions and feelings.

- Chaos is rooted in discord.
- Chaos is fueled by contention.
- Chaos requires the pitting of one against something.
- Peace is the byproduct of undoing the authority of chaos.

If we are to be like Jesus, then we must be about the business of promoting peace and undoing the authority of chaos. May I offer that for us to be people who walk in peace we must determine to be people who refuse to engage in chaos, contest, quarrel, or discord? When we step into that kind of Fear of the Lord, we are actively practicing shalom. We are truly stepping into the life of Jesus, the Way of Jesus, and we are aligning with what Jesus is dispensing. When we align with chaos , contest, quarrel we are those who turn away from His teachings...there is no blessing in that life.