

Christmas, The Gift of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

The prophecies by Isaiah of Jesus Christ were written 700 years before Christ was born. Isaiah was ministering to Israel during a time of great turmoil, a time of uncertainty and conflict, not a time of peace. It was a dark time of unrepentant kings who were looking for answers in wars instead of in the one true God. The nation Israel at that time was divided into two nations a Northern and Southern section. The Assyrians and Babylonians captured Israel. The Assyrians against the North and the Babylonians against the Assyrians. The Southern section was taken into exile by the Babylonians. Then the Persians under Cyrus went to war against the Babylonians. The opposite of peace is conflict, and that's certainly what Israel was experiencing. The people of God were looking for peace, with none on the horizon. Today we're looking for peace! The only true peace was given to us on the first Christmas, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. Peace came in the first Advent through Christ and peace can only remain through Christ.

I. The Person of Jesus Christ. *"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;"* Another Isaiah Christmas prophecy that goes along with this is found in Isaiah 7:14 *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* In a time in which the people of Israel felt helpless, they were given a prophecy of hope in the coming Messiah, Immanuel (God is with us), in the person of Jesus Christ. Everything had to line up perfectly and it did! Only God can bring total peace, and He came in the form of man!

II. His Position of Authority. *"and the government shall be upon his shoulder"* The section of this verse is really further explained by *Isaiah 22:22 "And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open."* The lineage of King David will reign forever. Jesus is the King of all! Matthew 28:18 notes this: *"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."* Only God can have full authority in order to bring peace.

III. He is The Prince of Peace. *"and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Jesus is called four names here, but the main one we want to examine today is "Prince of Peace." We need Jesus Christ to give us peace today and for the rest of eternity! The reason there is a conflict, absence of peace, between mankind, between nature (diseases, disasters, and death), is because our own hearts and minds are at conflict with God! All of the conflict in this world come as a result of our conflict with God and remains in the world until the conflict with God is removed. The only way to remove conflict and bring peace is through the original Christmas gift of peace in Jesus Christ. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve fell from being satisfied in God, being taken captive by their flesh, they preferred their own wisdom and their own way, and they chose conflict with God over peace

with God. They chose it and it ruined everything. Conflict with God has ruined everything. It has created conflict everywhere, both internal and external.

Romans 5:12, ***“Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”*** We mourn and grieve when a loved one passes, because it’s not meant to be! Death is a result of conflict. Unless the conflict with God can be removed, there will be no peace, either inner or outer. ***“‘There is no peace,’ says the Lord, ‘for the wicked’”*** (Isaiah 48:22). That’s us, except for one thing: Christmas, and all the many gifts that came from it through Jesus Christ!

Have you accepted the gift of peace through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ? Isaiah 53:4-5 clearly speak of the peace made between man and God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. ***“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”***

This is peace! Romans 5:1, ***“Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”***