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## Peace Pt 1 God gives peace, and He takes it away

This is our first study on the word “joy” in the scriptures. We establish three points– (i) seek peace and pursue it, (ii) God is a God of peace, (iii) The Lord gives peace, and (iv) Israel had no peace when they were immersed in whoredoms.

There are 420 occurrences of the word “peace” in scripture– 311 in the Old Testament and 109 occurrences in the New Testament.

We provide the meaning of the word “peace” from the scriptures–

To hold our peace is to shut our lips

“Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding” (Prov.17: 28).

Example– Num 30:4– “And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand”.

The same sentiment is expressed in verses that say–

– hold our peace is to say nothing– 2Sam 13:20

– hold our peace is to wait quietly to establish what the Lord is doing– Gen 24:21

To have peace is to be of good cheer– Jn 16:33– “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”.

There is a link between righteousness and peace=

i) Righteousness and peace have kissed each other– Ps.85:10– “Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other”.

ii) The work of righteousness shall be peace– Is.32:17– “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever”.

The opposite of peace is–

\* trouble– Jn 14:27– Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled”.

\* war– Deut 20:12– “And if it will make no peace with thee, but will make war against thee, then thou shalt besiege it”. See also 1Kgs 20:18

It is from our search of the scriptures that we establish our points–

### 1. Seek peace and pursue it

“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it” (Ps.34: 14).

The Lord has thoughts of Israel of peace and not evil

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jer.29: 11).

### 2. God is a God of peace

“Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen” (Rom.15: 33). See also Rom 16:20.

God formed the light, created darkness and makes peace and creates evil

“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things” (Is.45: 7).

Messiah was to be called the Prince of Peace

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Is.9: 6).

### 3. The Lord gives peace

“The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace” (Num 6:26).

The Lord will bless His people with peace– Ps.29:11– “The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace”.

The Lord will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Him

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed [on thee]: because he trusteth in thee” (Is.26: 3).

The end of the upright man is peace– Ps. 37:37– “Mark the perfect [man], and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace”.

### 4. Israel had no peace when they were immersed in whoredoms

“And it came to pass, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, [Is it] peace, Jehu? And he answered, What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts [are so] many?” (2 Kgs 9: 22).

There is no peace unto the wicked – saith the Lord

“There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked” (Is.48:22). See also Is.57: 21.

Questions of the scriptures

i) What are the catalysts for peace? ii) How will God restore peace to Israel?

Answers from the scriptures

i) The catalysts for peace are–

\* Unity– Eph 4:3– “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

\* Righteousness– Jas.3: 18– “And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace...”

\* The Holy Spirit of God– Gal 5:22– “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...”

ii) God will restore peace to Israel when he sets up His one shepherd over His people and will make a covenant of peace

“And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, [even] my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. [25] And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods” (Ez.34: 23).

The BRANCH shall build the temple of the Lord the counsel of peace shall be between them both– Zech 6:12–“And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name [is] The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord: [13] Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both”.

We learn from Israel that the source of peace is God. So whether we have peace or not, is not determined by the government and them telling you everything is okay, when it is not, or a pastor telling his congregation that their sin is okay, when they are immersed in whoredoms. We will only have peace when we walk in righteousness. And the body will only have peace when we have unity not division!