

Prince of Peace

Message 4 of 4 in the series: "What a Wonderful Name!"

A. The OT prophet Isaiah foretold that one day a Messiah would come who would be called "Prince of Peace".

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end**, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:6-7 (NKJV)

Note: Messiah = Christ = "anointed one" = a mighty king empowered by the Spirit of God like his ancestor King David, but better than David because His kingdom and its peace will never end.

B. 700 years later when Jesus was born, an army of angels appeared to some shepherds and identified Jesus as the Christ (Messiah), our Savior and Prince of Peace.

"Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: '**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!**' So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger." Luke 2:4-16 (NKJV)

1. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to save us and make it possible for us to have peace with God no matter who we are or what we've done.

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them... For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, **so that we could be made right with God through Christ.**" 2 Corinthians 5:19a & 21 (NLT)

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, **we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.**" Romans 5:1 (NLT)

Good News! Peace with God isn't just a cease-fire. Through faith in Jesus, we are adopted into God's family as His children.

"He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. **But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.** They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." John 1:10-13 (NLT)

"Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. **God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ.** This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins." Ephesians 1:4-7 (NLT)

2. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came to make it possible for us to have peace of mind and heart no matter our circumstances.

"I am leaving you with a gift—**peace of mind and heart.** And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." John 14:27 (NLT)

Note: The peace that Jesus promises us while we live in this fallen world is NOT an absence of problems or difficulties, but His abiding presence with us in the midst of our problems.

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘**God is with us.**’” Matthew 1:23 (NLT)

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you his peace at all times and in every situation.”
2 Thessalonians 3:16a (NLT)

Good News! God will give us peace we can't explain when we bring our cares and concerns to Him.

“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which **exceeds anything we can understand**. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7 (NLT)

3. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, will return one day soon to take us home to live with Him in Heaven where there will be peace without end.

“My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**” John 14:2-3 (NIV)

“Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and **there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.**” Revelation 21:3b-4 (NLT)

C. Two important questions to answer this Christmas:

1. Who do I say Jesus is?
2. Does the Prince of Peace govern my heart?

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Quotations to Consider

“The world doesn't give peace, for it doesn't have any peace to give. It fights for peace, it negotiates for peace... But Jesus gives peace to those who put their trust in him.” Billy Graham.

“The LORD gives his people strength. The LORD blesses them with peace.” Psalm 29:11 (NLT)

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!” Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” C.S. Lewis

“I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play and wild and sweet, the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men.” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O LORD, will keep me safe.” Psalm 4:8 (NLT)

“For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.” Isaiah 57:2 (NLT)

“That there was no room in the inn was symbolic of what was to happen to Jesus. The only place where there was room for him was on a cross.” William Barclay