

Peace and Its Backstory

Isaiah 9:6-7

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you." –Jesus (John 14:27)

[1] Peace, in the **simple** sense: *peace means no violence, no war.*

- From the moment Cain killed Abel (Genesis 4), human peace has been temporary, fragile, and elusive.
- By the time of Noah, "the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:11).
- God's judgment through the flood ends with signs of peace: a dove, an olive branch, and a promise of divine patience with sinful humanity. (Genesis 8:11, 21-22)
- But human violence continued, as the Old Testament describes in many places.

[2] Peace, in the **comprehensive** sense: *peace of mind.* This can also extend further to mean *harmonious relationships, prosperity, and complete well-being.*

- "You keep him in perfect peace [lit. *shalom-shalom*] whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." (Isaiah 26:3; see also 32:17, 48:18-22)

[3] Peace, in its **messianic** accomplishment:

- "For to us a child is born...and his name shall be called...Prince of Peace... Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end." (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- How so? Through a sacrificial death: "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace [*shalom*]." (Isaiah 53:5)

To the Lord's Supper: Peace Offering

- "Peace offerings," from the word *shalom*, were the only ones the worshipers could eat. (Lev 7:15) They provided immediate strengthening and table fellowship. Same for the Lord's Supper!

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Why is "peace" used in so many popular greetings—in both the Bible and contemporary society? Does this say anything about us?
2. What is the key to peace of mind according to Isaiah 26:3? How and why is this true?
3. The Messiah was called to be called the "Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) Explain this title, and what it means for us and the future.