

Peace

Micah 5:2-5a “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”³ Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel.⁴ And He shall stand and feed *His flock* In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;⁵ And this *One* shall be peace.

This One shall be peace. Jesus Himself is peace.

Jesus came to bring peace, but not in all areas. There is one area Jesus does **not** bring peace, and when we stay in that area, we are sure to not have peace.

But let’s look at the areas where we can have peace first.

The areas of peace

Jesus brings peace between us and God

- **Romans 5:8-10** But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
 - Before we were saved, we were actually enemies with God.
 - There is no just co-existing with God. We are either with Him or against Him.
- **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Benefits of having peace with God:

1. Eternal Life with Him (Heaven and New Earth)

2. Righteousness
3. Saved from Wrath
4. Adopted into His family as children
5. Access to the Father
6. Co-heir with Christ
7. Holy Spirit
8. We are made complete

Jesus brings peace into ourselves

- **2 Thessalonians 3:16** Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord *be* with you all.
 - Since He is the Lord of Peace, only Jesus can give peace.
- **John 14:25-27** These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you – standard Hebrew blessing
 - Not as the world gives do I give to you. – But Jesus isn't just wishing it, or saying it without any power. He is actually giving it. Empowering them to have peace.
 - Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid – Jesus can only give this command because He first gave the empowerment to keep it.

The true secret to inner peace is not avoiding stressful situations or having no troubles, it is being Jesus aware.

- **Isaiah 26:3** You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose mind is stayed on You*, Because he trusts in You.
 - When we keep our minds on God, or Jesus the Prince of Peace, we are kept in perfect peace.

- Understanding your Identity – who you are in Christ – will also alleviate inner turmoil
 - You will accept yourself
 - You find who you truly are underneath all those wounds and flesh patterns

Jesus brings peace into circumstances

- **John 16:33** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”
 - Things may happen, but Jesus has given us the keys to peace in those things.

How do we find peace in stressful situations?

- **Philippians 4:6-7** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
 - Let our requests be made known to God – Talk to Him about it!
 - Prayer actually changes things. It works.
 - When we truly have faith, then we believe that God exists.
 - If God exists, then He is who He says He is, His words are true.
 - He says He is our protector, provider, comforter, strength, wisdom
 - When we believe that, we pray with confidence
 - **James 5:16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.
 - And then Peace guards us

Where Jesus does not bring peace:

Matthew 10:34-39 “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to “*set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law*’; ³⁶ and “*a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.*’ ³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

- **Jesus does not bring peace between those that choose Him and those that choose the world.**
- If we try to be connected to the world and Jesus, we will find stress, anxiety, turmoil.
 - We will experience conviction, discipline, being pulled in multiple directions.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

But, when we make the decision to not live as the world, the only place to go is the Kingdom of God.

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The Kingdom of God is the opposite of the kingdoms of this world.

The Kingdom of God is ruled by the Prince of Peace and the God of Peace.