

“The Prince of Peace”

Isaiah 9:6

➡ Isaiah 9:6 has been called “**the resume of the Messiah.**”

- *Wonderful*—Unequaled in His **delights**.
- *Counsellor*—Unerring in His **directions**. Why wouldn't anyone follow the counsel of the One who created the universe?
- *The Mighty God*—Unquestionable in His **deity**.
- *The Everlasting Father*—Unending in His **days**.
- *Prince of Peace*—Unrivaled in His **dominion**.

The title, “*Prince of Peace,*” is related to the government of Christ—“*the government shall be upon his shoulder... Of the increase of his government and PEACE there shall be no end...*”

I. The COMMAND of Christ's peace.

- ➡ “*Prince*” is found over 300 times in the Bible. It denotes a leader, a ruler, a commander, a chief (Gen. 12:15; 1 Chron. 22:17; Dan. 6:1; Mt. 20:25). Literally it means, “the one who takes first place.”
- ➡ Peace finds its dominion in Christ. He is “*the Prince of Peace*”... Ruler of Peace... Leader of Peace... King of Peace... God of Peace.
- ➡ To experience Christ's peace, He must be in command—He must be in control. Whatever He governs experiences peace. The reason there is no peace in the world today is Jesus is not in command. Satan is the “*god of this world*”... “*the prince of the power of the air.*”
- ➡ There will be no peace until Christ is FIRST, “*The Prince of Peace.*”
 - A. As “*The Prince of Peace*” He comes to exercise His **LORDSHIP**.
 - He does not come to vote for peace.
 - He does not come to assist us in bringing in peace.
 - He comes to be LORD and RULER.
 - He comes to GOVERN our lives and thereby bring in peace. Before anyone can experience Christ's offer of peace, Jesus must be in charge.
 - B. As “*The Prince of Peace*” He comes to establish His **LEADERSHIP**.

- He comes to LEAD us into peace. We either go His way, or there will be no peace.
- Find out which way Jesus is going and follow Him! He is very capable of running our lives better than we can run it ourselves.

II. The CHARACTER of Christ's peace.

➤ Jesus said, *"My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."* (John 14:27).

- A. Satan seduces with a **spurious peace**. Satan offers a counterfeit peace—A false sense of peace that comes from indifference and ignorance. Peace is more than stillness. The false prophets of Israel prophesied, *"Peace, peace; when there is no peace."*
 - A cemetery must never be mistaken for God's ideal of peace.
 - One pastor remarked, "My church doesn't need peace—it needs an earthquake!"
- B. Jesus secures us with a **supernatural peace**. Paul called it *"a peace that passes all understanding."* (Phil. 4:7).
 1. Christ's peace is more than a lack of conflict, or an absence of difficulty. Jesus said we will have conflict and trouble—*"In the world ye shall have tribulation..."* But we can still have an inner peace from within knowing Jesus is in control.
 2. Jesus calmed the storm saying, *"Peace, be still,"* because Jesus had control of the storm. Likewise He will calm our calamities when He is in control of our lives.
 3. He brings peace to our troubled heart/mind, when He controls of our thoughts. Isaiah 26:3—*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."* Peace is the calm assurance that Jesus is in control.

III. The COST of Christ's peace. Peace comes at a cost! There is no such thing as peace without paying a price.

➤ The word *"peace"* suggests "harmony." There will no peace until our lives (and our world) is brought into harmony with God.

- ➡ **War often precedes peace.** War is the result of two or more parties who are at odds with each other. To make peace, their differences must be reconciled or harmonized.
- A. The CONFLICT. Man was at enmity with God (Rom. 5:10). Man, by nature, is against God. Man does not want God to govern their lives. They said of Christ, *“We will not have this man to reign over us.”* The enmity between God and Man was so great, they could not be reconciled without a GREAT COST. It cost Christ His own life to make peace between God and man.
- B. The CROSS. Jesus came to earth 2,000 years ago on a peace-making mission. He came to be the Mediator between God and man. He could identify with both parties.
- He could identify with the offended—God, because He was God.
 - He could identify with man because He was man.
- C. The CONCILIATION—On the cross Jesus bore all of man’s offenses and brought together the two warring parties to make reconciliation.
- Colossians 1:20-21—*And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled...*
 - The Gospel is called *“THE GOSPEL OF PEACE”* (Rom. 10:15).
 - Jesus did more than negotiate a ceasefire between us and God. His work of peace at Calvary changes us from being God’s enemy into being one of God’s children.

➡ **ILLUS: The Peace Child**

In 1962, missionaries Don and Carol Richardson began their work among the Sawi tribe of New Guinea. The Sawi’s a violent tribe of headhunters and cannibals.

The Sawi’s viewed treachery as a virtue. Amazingly, they viewed Judas Iscariot as a hero. The Richardsons couldn’t get the Sawi to understand God’s love in the sacrifice of His Son at Calvary.

One day a neighboring tribe attacked, beginning a war that lasted several weeks. Finally, Don told the village chief that if the war did not end, he and Carol would leave.

The tribe had come to rely on Carol's medical skills and valued Don's steel tools. So, the chief decided it was time to make peace.

On an appointed day, the warriors of both tribes gathered. They faced each other across a clearing in the jungle.

When everyone was in place, the chief of the Richardsons' village took his infant son—his firstborn son—from the arms of his distraught wife.

The chief walked solemnly, carrying his infant son, past his own warriors. As he did, each man in turn placed his hands on the baby. Then, the chief walked to the row of enemy warriors—and placed his son in the arms of the enemy chief.

Then that chief walked past his warriors, and each in turn placed his hands on the child. Then the enemy chief turned and walked into the jungle with the infant son. His warriors followed him toward their own village. The infant's parents would never see their son again. He was now "the peace child." By tribal tradition, so long as the boy lived, the two villages would be at peace with each other.

Not many days later, the Don and Carol Richardson brought the village elders together. Don told them the story of Jesus again. This time the story sounded different. This time, Don introduced our Jesus as God's "Peace Child." He helped the Sawi to see that the people of this world were once at war with God.

So God gave His Son—his firstborn Son—to end the hostilities. It was a great sacrifice!

This picture of Jesus as the "Peace Child" clicked with the Sawi. Many were saved as a result.

From beginning to end, the Bible focuses on the peace that a just and holy God promised, delivered, and sustains through his greatest sacrifice, the sacrifice of his only Son, our Savior.

SUMMATION: When World War 2 ended and peace was declared, a young Japanese Lieutenant named Hiroo Onoda, was stationed on an island in the Philippines. He didn't know the war was over. He continued to fight.

He finally surrendered in March 1974—nearly 30 years after the war had ended—when his former commanding officer traveled from Japan to the Philippines, rescinded his original order, and officially relieved Onoda of duty. Onoda finally believed the war was over.

What a sad thing that 2,000 years ago Jesus defeated Satan at Calvary and purchased peace with His blood. But many are still fighting a war that Jesus already won. They continue to live war-torn lives, struggling on the battlefield of life. All they need to do is accept Christ's terms of surrender and receive the peace Christ offers.