

Isaiah 9:6-7

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. 2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,

the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Summary

True peace comes through a combination of three factors: dealing with the root of conflict, defeating the enemy, and/or bringing the enemy over to your side. In this passage Jesus Christ is portrayed as the prince of peace, one who would bring the end of conflict in a similar way that God brought about victory against the Midianites through Gideon in Judges 7. This involved destroying false gods and defeating the enemy through unconventional means. Jesus comes to turn our hearts back to God, destroy sin on the cross, and then win His enemies over to his purposes. This is the way that true peace comes, and it's only possible through Jesus Christ. We finish the sermon by seeing how the peace of Jesus comes to transform us into 'peacemakers', those who are called sons (and daughters) of God (Matthew 5).

Final Thoughts

Only as we receive peace with God through Jesus can we become peacemakers in the world. Are you at peace with God?

Key Points

1. Jesus is the prince of peace who turns us back to God, deals with the root of conflict, and makes his enemies his friends.

Questions

1. What does it mean to have peace with God?
2. What has been your view of peace? Is it true peace or rather "peace and quiet"?

RHC Core Values

Gospel-Centredness – To have the gospel in the centre of our ministry, and for everything we do to find its root in the gospel.

Experimental Faith – To actively seek the modern day work of the Holy Spirit, expecting him to move in our midst in signs and wonders, and to lead us to the will of God.

Theological Depth – To pursue a deep and soul satisfying knowledge and understanding of God through the Bible.

Community on Mission – To recognise that we are not here for ourselves, but are on a mission to bring the gospel to the world.

City Renewal – To see the gospel change every aspect of the city we are living in by doing social justice, integrating our faith and work, and seeing the city renewed culturally, socially and spiritually for the glory of God.