

Theme: The great expectation that the Prince of Peace will one day rule is being fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

## I. Intro – The Hunger for Peace

- A. People have almost always desired peace
- B. This is especially acute today
- C. Not only a lack of armed military conflict
- D. We want inner peace - a therapeutic age
- E. What is peace? How is it found?
- F. What does it have to do with Christmas?

## II. The Desire For Peace

- A. The desire for peace - in Isaiah's day
  - 1. This was a major concern of the prophet
    - a. Peace in 9:6-7 - 2x - first time in Isaiah
    - b. Some form of "Shalom" occurs 29x in Isaiah!
    - c. More than any OT book
  - 2. The reason for this focus in Isaiah's day
    - a. Israel surrounded by enemies - map
    - b. A lot of threats and war at this time
    - c. As a result, a distinct lack of inner peace!
- B. The desire for peace today
  - 1. Our age is also full of a desire for peace
  - 2. We have grown weary of war

- 3. Wars to end all wars haven't!
- 4. We live in the most therapeutic age ever
- 5. We crave an inner peace

## C. Where can peace be found?

## III. Peace - And Its Roots

- A. Peace has many facets
  - 1. It certainly includes cessation of warfare (9:5-7)
  - 2. It includes overall well being (Isa 45:7)
  - 3. Peace is total well-being
    - a. Freedom from calamity & war - being blessed
    - b. Individual well being - and communal well being
    - c. Internal satisfaction & external blessing
- B. The roots of peace
  - 1. Peace flows from righteousness - not evil
    - a. A major theme in Isaiah - most verses link them
    - b. Isa. 9:6-7 - establishes justice & righteousness
    - c. Isa 32:17 - peace is fruit of righteousness
    - d. Isa 59:8 - no peace on crooked path of injustice
    - e. Sin and injustice bring conflict - not peace
  - 2. Peace comes from being ruled by Prince of Peace
    - a. Isa 9:6-7 - Prince; government; reign; throne; kingdom

- b. Isa. 52:7 - proclaim peace - Your God reigns
- 3. This rulership costs everything
  - a. We want peace on our terms - but not possible
  - b. Peace comes when God rules in our lives
  - c. But it also cost God everything
    - 1. The Ruler comes as a child - a helpless Babe
    - 2. The Ruler must bear punishment for us (Is 53:5)
    - 3. But this makes our peace sure! (Isa 54:10)

- 5. The Prince of Peace has begun His rule of Peace
- 6. Look to Him - and receive His peace today!
- 7. Then go & be an instrument of peace in a troubled world

C. Concluding prayer for peace

**Great Expectations - The Prince of Peace Will Rule**

Isaiah 9:1-7  
December 9, 2012  
Prayer  
2 Thessalonians 3:16

**IV. Applying the Word**

- A. Do we understand where peace comes from? (Law)
  - 1. Many try to seek peace - in all the wrong ways
  - 2. Peace does not come with unrighteousness
  - 3. Peace can only come from being under God's rule
  - 4. Am I submitted to God and His Law?
  - 5. Do I know the Prince of Peace?
  - 6. Am I submitted to His rule?
- B. God's offer of peace (Gospel)
  - 1. We live in a harried, hurried world
  - 2. Sometimes Christmas is the worst time for this!
  - 3. God offers true peace - shalom - through Jesus
  - 4. The Prince of Peace has come!

I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things. Isaiah 45:7

NOTE: The word translated 'prosperity' is shalom - the same word as 'peace.'

The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. Isaiah 32:17

The way of peace they do not know; there is no justice in their paths. They have turned them into crooked roads; no one who walks in them will know peace.  
Isaiah 59:8

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.  
Isaiah 53:5

"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you. Isaiah 54:10

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way.  
The Lord be with all of you. 2 Thessalonians 3:16