

## Verses for Meditating on the Advent of Peace in Christ

(Note: If in the following verses words are in bold, the Hebrew word is shalom - peace - even if the English translation is something different)

### **Peace - No conflict between people and nations**

(The following verses show us that one aspect of peace is that of the removal of conflict between people and nations.)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 9:9-10

[There is] A time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:8

For he ruled over all the kingdoms west of the River, from Tiphshah to Gaza, and had peace on all sides. <sup>25</sup> During Solomon's lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.

1 Kings 4:24-25

### **Peace - internal comfort and lack of fear**

(The following verses show us that another aspect of peace is internal comfort and lack of fear - sometimes even in the face of difficult circumstances.)

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:27

But the LORD said to him, "Peace! Do not be afraid. You are not going to die."

Judges 6:23

### **Peace - well being and prosperity (individual and communal)**

(The following verses show us that another aspect of peace is that of well being and prosperity - both for an individual as well as for the community. The Hebrew word shalom means much more than just cessation of war and internal comfort - it is the blessed state that arises when things are right, and which ultimately flows from the righteousness of God.)

The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. <sup>2</sup> He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. <sup>3</sup> The mountains will bring **prosperity** to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. <sup>4</sup> He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. <sup>5</sup> He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. <sup>6</sup> He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. <sup>7</sup> In his days the righteous will flourish; **prosperity** will abound till the moon is no more.

Psalms 72:1–7

For he ruled over all the kingdoms west of the River, from Tiphseh to Gaza, and had peace on all sides. <sup>25</sup> During Solomon’s lifetime Judah and Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, lived in safety, each man under his own vine and fig tree.

1 Kings 4:24–25

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. <sup>17</sup> The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

<sup>18</sup> My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

Isaiah 32:16–18

### **False peace - offered by false prophets**

(These verses speak of false prophets who offer a false peace. There have always been - and always will be - those who offer a counterfeit peace. Furthermore, the world around us may long for false prophets to speak lies and to offer false peace. We must beware of such false prophets and flee from them and their false peace.)

They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 6:14//Jeremiah 8:11

These are rebellious people, deceitful children, children unwilling to listen to the LORD'S instruction. <sup>10</sup> They say to the seers, "See no more visions!" and to the prophets, "Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions." <sup>11</sup> Leave this way, get off this path, and stop confronting us with the Holy One of Israel!"

Isaiah 30:9–11

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>17</sup> They keep saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD says: You will have peace.' And to all who follow the stubbornness of their hearts they say, 'No harm will come to you.'"

Jeremiah 23:16–17

"Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>9</sup> My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of the house of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Sovereign LORD. <sup>10</sup> Because they lead my people astray, saying, "Peace," when there is no peace, and because, when a flimsy wall is built, they cover it with whitewash, <sup>11</sup> therefore tell those who cover it with whitewash that it is going to fall. Rain will come in torrents, and I will send hailstones hurtling down, and violent winds will burst forth. <sup>12</sup> When the wall collapses, will people not ask you, "Where is the whitewash you covered it with?"

Ezekiel 13:8–12

### **True peace is related to righteousness - and salvation**

(These verses show that true, biblical peace is intimately related to righteousness. Sin always destroys peace, and true peace is the fruit of righteousness. Shalom - peace - is the blessed life that flows from the righteousness of God, and can only truly be experienced by those who have received the righteousness of God (justification) and are learning how to walk in righteousness by the Spirit (sanctification). This is the peace of God for which we were made.)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:6–7

If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

Isaiah 48:18

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; God makes salvation its walls and ramparts. <sup>2</sup> Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. <sup>3</sup> You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. <sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD, is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:1–4

Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. <sup>17</sup> The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.

<sup>18</sup> My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.

Isaiah 32:16–18

“There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 48:22

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. <sup>8</sup> I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints— but let them not return to folly.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Psalms 85:7–9

I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, <sup>19</sup> creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the LORD.

“And I will heal them.” <sup>20</sup> But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud. <sup>21</sup> “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”

Isaiah 57:18–21

“I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him, <sup>19</sup> creating praise on the lips of the mourners in Israel. Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the LORD. “And I will heal them.”

Isaiah 57:18–19

Instead of bronze I will bring you gold, and silver in place of iron. Instead of wood I will bring you bronze, and iron in place of stones. I will make peace your governor and righteousness your ruler.

Isaiah 60:17

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:14

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Zechariah 9:9–10

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. <sup>2</sup> He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. <sup>3</sup> The mountains will bring **prosperity** to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness. <sup>4</sup> He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. <sup>5</sup> He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. <sup>6</sup> He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. <sup>7</sup> In his days the righteous will flourish; **prosperity** will abound till the moon is no more.

Psalms 72:1–7

Consider the blameless, observe the upright; there is a future for the man of peace.

Psalms 37:37

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

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1–2

### **Jesus Himself is our peace - and offers His full peace to us**

(Ultimately, Jesus Himself is Peace. He is the Peace of God incarnate. Thus, true peace is only found in His Person and work. But thanks be to God He has made peace for us, and offers His peace freely to us!)

So Gideon built an altar to the LORD there and called it The LORD is Peace.

Judges 6:24

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

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”<sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.<sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.<sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.  
Micah 5:2–5a

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,<sup>15</sup> by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,<sup>16</sup> and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.  
Ephesians 2:14–17

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.  
Romans 5:1–2

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

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all people,<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”  
Luke 2:29–33

The LORD bless you and keep you;<sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;<sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
Numbers 6:24–26

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.  
John 14:27

### **Those who have the peace of Christ should be people of peace**

(If we have received the peace of Christ, we must long to pass it on to others. This includes both our words and our actions. We offer the peace of the Gospel, and we also work for peace with other people - knowing that our God reigns, and therefore we can trust Him to care for us. The freedom we have in Christ, allows us to be men and women of peace not only within ourselves, but in a sin wracked, conflict laden world.)

True instruction was in his mouth and nothing false was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and uprightness, and turned many from sin.

Malachi 2:6

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

With your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

Ephesians 6:15

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup> On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:17-21