

## Advent pt 2 Peace

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Advent / Isaiah 9:2–7

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Peace. Sounds like such an amazing idea doesn't it? We have watched over the past couple of years as a sense of unrest and outright warfare has risen in our world. We had riots in our streets. The storming of the capital. Constant sniping online. War in Ukraine. Now the horrible situation in Israel and Gaza. And that's just what has happened broadly.

Many of us have lived thru storms this year and in previous years. Peace seems like a long shot. Yet, it is one of the things Jesus promises over and over again to His people.

When I started memorizing scripture in an intentional manner years ago, verses about peace were at the forefront. I am not a person easily given to peace. I feel things deeply and I tend to enter into the fray on behalf of others more often than is healthy. My own faith journey is combative. I am grateful for grace. I need a lot of it.

But as I began to pray and memorize scripture back in 2012-13, I focused on verses that emphasized peace, because I wanted to be at peace. And those have served me well over the years.

In fact, [Isaiah 26:3](#) has become my most regular prayer- You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you because he trusts in You.

The mind is the battle ground for peace and it is the mind- in addition to the soul- that Jesus wants to redeem. When He has our thoughts He has our attention.

Turn with me to [Isaiah 9:2-7](#) and let's look at the peace Jesus wants to bring.

First, let's be honest. **The unknown disturbs our peace.** When we cannot see where we are going, or are afraid of what is ahead peace is hard to come by. The Messiah is going to pierce the darkness. We can experience peace with Jesus because He lights the way. (v2)

### **Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

The verse contrasts those who “are walking” (a participle) in darkness with those who “will see” (not “have seen” as in NIV) a light of hope in the future. At this point the light is not identified, but it was certainly a sign of hope and deliverance from the darkness that pervaded the land. This light was a sign that God had not completely given up on his people.

Second, **peace is hard to come by when we are afraid we will not have enough.** When I was out of a job in 2011 I kept this verse close to my heart [Psalm 37:25](#) “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”

The same promise is here. Peace comes with the joy of the Lord- as we can depend on Him to provide and deliver like the harvest or like those who take the spoils of conquering an enemy. We will not be without.

### **Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

Two illustrations of wild celebrative joy are used to compare the people's future happiness. The people will rejoice and jump for joy like people do when they see an unusually massive harvest (possibly referring to the joy at the Feast of Weeks; Deut 16:9–12) or when they observe the hoards of goods brought home by the troops after an enemy nation is plundered

Third, **we are robbed of peace when we are under the boot of an oppressor or being harmed by another.** Jesus comes to deliver us from that as well. He brings us peace by doing battle for us- and winning. (v4-5)

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

The yoke, bar, and rod (used of Assyria's oppression in 10:24–27) were instruments used to dominate people and force them to work physically, or they could be used as metaphors to describe a heavy burden put on people through increased taxation or domineering rule

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

Although this may usher in a time of peace without war (as in 2:4), the focus of this promise is simply on the utter defeat of the enemy. There is no prediction concerning when in the future this will happen.

And this comes from Jesus- and His advent! Not even what He did on the cross, just His arrival! Look at v6-7. **His arrival brings change.**

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

This positive oracle comes to a climactic end by announcing the birth of a son who would reign forever as a righteous Davidic ruler (one very different from Ahaz)

All these names for Jesus are amazing. And they all connect to the last one- Prince of Peace. He is in charge of peace!

**Wonderful Counselor-** someone who provides wise advice and insight

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

Since God is the source of all miraculous events and his plans are the wisest counsel to follow, God will work in and through this son to demonstrate his extraordinary wisdom to plan wonderful miraculous things.

**Mighty God**- undefeatable, not able to be overtaken

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

the later use of this same name to describe God himself in 10:21 demands that this son be identified with God in a very close manner. No other person ever has God's name and God is never called Moses, Abram, David, or Jeremiah, so there must be something very special about this son that causes him to have God's name

**Everlasting Father**- a permanent parent and protector...one who will endure even our rebellion for the sake of our good

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

Since fathers were the heads of tribes who wisely led the people, it is a fitting title for a ruler if one wants to avoid some of the negative connotations of kingship. "Everlasting" is a title that does not apply to any human ruler, except that the Davidic promise speaks of one who will rule on the throne of David forever

**Prince of Peace**- the ability to bring peace and to sustain it thru His rule

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

Peace implies an end of war and is reminiscent of the ideal peace described in the kingdom of God

He brings peace, but **with that peace comes justice and righteousness, the establishment of a permanent Kingdom where all these things occur.**

**Isaiah 1–39 (1) The Reign of a Righteous King (9:1–7)**

Finally, Isaiah offers a rhetorical assurance to his listeners concerning the fulfillment of this promise. Simply stated, God Almighty himself will do it. With unassailable zeal, determination, and passion God will concentrate his efforts to accomplish this marvelous deed. **Isaiah's listeners can be absolutely sure that an omnipotent, sovereign God will stand behind the fulfillment of this wonderful plan**

But what about now? See so many of these things sound future, and for so many of us, we need peace now so we can rest and focus and plan and not be beset by constant anxiety and fear.

So how does God give us peace now?

**Guards our hearts from the devil** (Philippians 4:7)

**Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (3) Exhortation to Joy and Peace (4:4–9)**

The answer to anxiety is the peace of God. Paul made three statements about this peace. **First, it is divine peace.** He did not envision a situation where circumstances changed or external needs were met.

This peace was a characteristic of God which invaded the Christian.

**Second, it “transcends all understanding.”** “Transcends” translates the word hyperechousa (“excellent”), which is found in 2:3; 3:8, and here in a compound form. Paul contrasted knowledge and peace at one point:

**Peace excels over knowledge. No doubt he had in mind situations where knowledge is insufficient.** Sometimes it cannot explain, and sometimes explanations do not help.

Peace, however, is always appropriate and meets the need of the heart. Finally, this peace will “guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” **“Guard” is a**

**military term, implying that peace stands on duty to keep out anything that brings care and anxiety.** For these reasons, prayerful people are peaceful people

**Brings us joy when we are aligned with His peace** (Proverbs 12:20)

**Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs (15) The Use and Abuse of Words (12:16–22)**

**seek the well-being of others and obtain the same for themselves**

**Assists us during dire circumstances (Isaiah 54:10)**

**Isaiah 40–66 Call for the Wife to Respond to God’s Love (54:1–10)**

Though this shaking (the movement of the mountains) may seem almost unimaginable, **it is far more unimaginable for anything to cause God’s “steadfast loving-kindness” (hesed, as in vs. 8) to “depart, move”** (using the same verb used of the mountains above) from his people. **Equally firm is God’s absolute commitment to “my covenant of peace” which will not “shake, totter”** (using the same verb used of the hills above). This is a covenant that is even surer than Noah’s everlasting covenant, but the full import of this covenant is not explained. J. Muilenburg suggests that this covenant of peace is related to the peace that the death of the servant mediates

*And where do we get this peace from?*

**Is a blessing from God (Psalm 29:11)**

**Psalms 1–72: An Introduction and Commentary Salvation on Earth (29:10, 11)**

**This closing word with peace is like a rainbow arch over the Psalm. The beginning of the Psalm shows us heaven open ...; while its close shows us his victorious people upon earth, blessed with peace in the midst of the terrible utterance of his wrath**

Today, this peace is available for you from Jesus. Will you rest in Him and His peace?

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