

THE KINGDOM AS PEACE

Is. 52:7

- I. HOW BEAUTIFUL ON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET (WHO PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD)
 - A. Bring good news and good tidings
 - B. Proclaim salvation
 - C. Proclaim peace
 - D. Who say to Zion, "*Your God reigns!*"

- II. BIBLE IS FULL OF GOD'S KINGDOM
 - A. View all of scripture as history of God's plan to restore a fallen creation.
 - B. Bringing all God has made to the fulfillment of his purposes under his sovereign reign
 - C. Biblical themes that shed light on kingdom
 - 1. Peace, land, house, city, justice, Sabbath, Jubilee

- III. THE KINGDOM AS SHALOM
 - A. Usually translated peace--occurs 350 times
 - B. Root meaning is "to be whole, sound, safe."
 - 1. Fundamental idea is totality
 - 2. Well-being

- IV. OLD TESTAMENT TEACHES GOD'S PLAN IS TO BRING A UNIVERSAL PEACE TO HIS CREATION
 - A. More than absence of conflict or inner peace, or peace of mind
 - B. Carries sense of harmony, right relationship, and the proper functioning of all elements in the environment
 - C. Garden of Eden before Fall provides good model
 - 1. "*Every man sitting under his own vine and fig tree...*"
 - 2. "*None to make them afraid...*"
 - D. Shalom directly tied to kingly rule of the Messiah
 - 1. Prince of Peace
 - 2. Increase of government and peace there will be no end
 - 3. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him (He was chastised for our peace)
 - 4. In OT, peace a decidedly this-world concept

- V. NEW TESTAMENT BUILDS ON SHALOM PROMISES OF THE OT WHEN SPEAKS OF GOSPEL OF PEACE
 - A. Kingdom of God righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost
 - B. Peace at the heart of God's reign

VI. NEW TESTAMENT THEME OF PEACE TIES KINGDOM DIRECTLY TO JESUS CHRIST

- A. At Jesus' birth, Peace on earth, meaning of Jesus' coming
 - 1. Prince of peace
 - 2. Like Melchisedec, King of Peace
- B. He is our peace - Eph. 2:14-17
 - 1. Who has broken down every wall
 - 2. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross
 - 3. And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh
- C. Reconciliation - means making peace
 - 1. Col. 1:20 - *"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."*
 - 2. II Cor. 5:19 - *"...God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself..."*
- D. Through Jesus, universal shalom throughout whole created order
 - 1. Not just absence of conflict, but harmony, balance and health
 - 2. Peace in NT normal state of new creation
 - 3. First, peace with God
 - 4. Bible sees world ecologically (all aspects of creation linked to all others) peace in the kingdom sense reaches to the harmonizing of every reality and relationship under God's authority.

VII. NEW TESTAMENT STRESSES CALLING TO BUILD A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY

- A. Rom. 14:19 - *"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."*
- B. Rom. 12:18 - *"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."*
- C. Heb. 12:14 - *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."*
- D. Jas. 3:18 - *"And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."*
- E. Mt. 5:9 - *"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."*

VIII. CHRISTIANS ARE KINGDOM PEOPLE WHEN, HAVING FOUND PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS, THEY BUILD A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY AND BECOME AGENTS OF GOD'S SHALOM IN THE WORLD

- A. We are to announce the peace of forgiveness and regeneration
- B. Peace on earth will come about through Jesus Christ and through the Christian community, his Body

- C. Practical aspects of shalom for the church today
 - 1. Church must be at peace with itself
 - a. Reconciliation and forgiveness
 - b. Petty resentments, gossip, unkind comments, and lingering jealousies have no place in community of faith
 - c. Broader witness will suffer if these internal dimensions of peace are not faced
 - 2. Must present gospel of peace to the world, not message of violence, distrust, discord, and alienation

IX. AND THE VERY GOD OF PEACE SANCTIFY YOU WHOLLY: AND I
PRAY GOD YOUR WHOLE SPIRIT AND SOUL AND BODY BE
PRESERVED BLAMELESS UNTO THE COMING OF OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST