“HIS NAME…PRINCE OF PEACE”  
(Isa 9:6)

A. The 5 names given to Jesus in Isaiah are not repetitious; each name describes a different attribute of his character.

1. As “Wonderful,” He inspires awe & amazement.

2. As “Counselor,” He conferred with God & advises man on behalf of God.

3. As “mighty God,” He possesses every attribute of Almighty God.

4. As “everlasting Father,” He revealed the character & nature of God the Father.

[As “Prince of Peace,” we will see that He provides calmness, the absence of hostility.]

I. GOD’S PEACE IN PROMISE

A. When Isaiah spoke this prophecy 2,800 years ago, his nation was being threatened with the opposite of peace - hostility.

1. The rumblings of war, destruction, & slavery were heard on the horizon.

2. Within a generation Israel would be in the clutches of their Babylonian captors.

B. And yet Isaiah held out - to the people - a magnificent hope.

1. Isa 9:2 – The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.
a. Jesus fulfilled that prophecy when He began His Galilean ministry, preaching that the kingdom of Heaven was at hand (Matt 4:12-17).

b. But Isaiah also tells us that Jesus was the child born, the Son given, who will be called “Prince of Peace” (Isa 9:6).

c. The “Prince of Peace” brought “light” to those who are in darkness & despair – and that “light” brought them peace.

C. But everyone is in darkness (metaphor: ignorance, confusion & sin) before they are introduced to the Prince of Peace.

1. His light wasn’t just for “the land of Zebulon & Naphtali by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles”.

2. His light was for us too, because before we began to follow His light, we were also in darkness (Eph 5:8; Col 1:13; 1 Pet 2:9).

3. The Hebrew word for “peace”, shalom, was well known to the Israelites; it was a greeting, as we would say “Hello” to a friend.

   a. Lev 26:6 – I will give peace in the land, & you shall lie down, & none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, & the sword will not go through your land.

   b. Psa 29:11 – The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace.
c. When Isaiah announced the coming of the Messiah, he said His name would be “Prince of Peace.”

[So the Israelites were confused. They had these promises from God of peace, & yet they found so little peace throughout their history.

Then, finally, Jesus was born & peace came.

Luke 2:13-14 – And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God & saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, & on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

II. MAN’S PEACE HAS COME

A. The shepherds would have been the least to expect this angelic announcement, because they were the nobodies of their day.

1. There were declared ceremonially unclean.
2. They could not be called as witnesses.
3. There were looked down on & hated.
4. Jewish Talmud: “Give no help to the heathen or a shepherd.”

B. But God doesn’t have prejudices as men do.

1. Rather than overlook the shepherds, He exalted them; He gave them the most important announcement ever made.

2. {Pause} There’s a lesson in that for the Christian & the church He established.

   a. The world is going to make us feel like the shepherds felt in their society (John 15:18-19; 1 John 3:13-14).
a. While the people were gathered in the village square, the centurion read the edict, “Let all the children of Bethlehem & all the borders thereof two years of age & under, be slain.”

c. God chose to dispense the light of His grace through humble men like the shepherds.

d. We must be just as humble, because God “gives grace to the humble” (1 Pet 5:5), & that grace is His Peace.

C. After Jesus was born, the whole countryside must’ve been a stir with this promise of peace.

1. Then one day the Roman Legion came to Bethlehem with orders from Herod.

D. Two thousand years has not changed this cry.

1. The poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, “And in despair I bowed my head: ‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said.”
2. Did God lie? Did the Christ come to earth to bring peace or did He not?

The peace Jesus came to give is a peace that passes understanding; it is a peace that has no similarity to the kind of peace the world can give (Phil 4:7; John 14:27).

His peace is not a political peace, a peace among nations (nonaggression treaty), or a peace that outlaws war.

Then what KIND of peace did Jesus come to give?

III. PRINCES’ PEACE REVEALED

A. Peace With God.

1. Rom 5:1-2 – Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, & rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

a. To be justified is to be forgiven of sin (Rom 6:3-4, 17-18).

b. We are not justified by faith alone, but by a faith that works through love (Gal 5:6); a faith that is willing to obey the terms of the gospel & the teachings of Christ in the New Testament (John 14:15).

2. Since all have sinned (Rom 3:23), then all have been OR are now in a state of hostility or animosity with God.

a. Sin is the great separator; it puts a barrier between men & God (Isa 59:1-2).
3. Sin is also the great disturber, the constant troubler of the heart.

   a. Isa 48:22; 57:21 – There is no peace, says the Lord, says my God, to the wicked.

   b. SIN is the source of all disorder, strife, jealousy, envy, covetousness, hatred, war, & killing.


   a. That’s how Prince of Peace came to save His people from their sins (Matt 1:21).

   [Not only does Jesus give us peace with God, but He gives the Christian the peace of God.]

B. The Peace Of God.

1. Phil 4:6-7 – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer & supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 & the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts & minds through Christ Jesus.

2. The peace of God is a serenity of the soul, an inner calm born of faith & trust in God.

   a. But this kind of peace will not be given without a lot of effort on our part.

3. Phil 4:8-9 – Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, …noble, …just, …pure, …lovely, …of good report, if there is any virtue & if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned & received & heard & saw in me, these do, & the God of peace will be with you.
4. What guarded the mind of Paul throughout his prison ordeal?
   a. The peace of God, which he obtained by meditating on godly things.

5. What guarded the heart of Jesus through His many persecutions, mocking & physical abuses? What gave Him such poise in the presence of His tormentors when they tried to trap Him in His words?
   a. The peace of God, which He possessed in being one with God in Spirit.

CLOSING

A. Have you found the peace offered by the Prince of Peace? You won’t find it anywhere in this world.

1. John 14:27 – **Peace** I leave with you, My **peace** I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.

2. Isa 26:3 – You will keep him in perfect **peace**, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.

3. The person who entrusts his life to God through Jesus Christ will have this peace.

4. It is God’s gift in response to your faith in Christ, your repentance of sin & your baptism into Christ.

5. It is a peace that comes by knowing your sins are forgiven & that you live in hope of eternal life which God, Who cannot lie, promised before time began (Titus 1:2).