

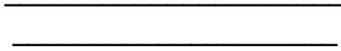


metro life church

# Behold Peace

The LORD is zealous for  
the triumph of peace

Isaiah 9:2-7



*Isaiah 9:2–7*

- [2] The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.*
- [3] You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*
- [4] For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.*
- [5] For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.*
- [6] For to us a child is born,*

*to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
[7] Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

V.5 - Every mechanism for tyranny will go into the bonfire of God's grace.

V.6 - God's answer to everything that has ever terrorized us is a child. His answer to the bullies swaggering through history is not to become an even bigger bully. His answer is Jesus.

Look at Jesus. As the Wonderful Counselor, he has the best ideas and strategies. Let's follow him. As the Mighty God, he defeats his enemies easily. Let's hide behind him. As the Everlasting Father, he loves us endlessly. Let's enjoy him. As the Prince of Peace, he reconciles us while we are still his enemies. Let's welcome his dominion.

*The message of Christianity is; "Things really are this bad, and we can't heal or save ourselves. Things really are this dark—nevertheless, there is hope." The Christmas message is that "on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." Notice that it doesn't say from the world a light has sprung, but upon the world a light has dawned. It has come from outside. There is light outside of this world, and Jesus has brought that light to save us; indeed, he is the Light (John 8:12).<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Keller, Timothy. Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ (p. 10). Penguin Publishing Group.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for peace is “shalom,” and in the New Testament, the Greek word is “eirene.” The most basic meaning of shalom is complete or whole. The word can refer to a stone that has a perfect whole shape with no cracks.

It can also refer to a completed stone wall that has no gaps and no missing bricks. Shalom refers to something that’s complex with lots of pieces that’s in a state of completeness, wholeness. It’s like Job who says his tents are in a state of shalom because he counted his flock and no animals are missing. This is why shalom can refer to a person’s well-being. Like when David visited his brothers on the battlefield, he asked about their shalom. The core idea is that life is complex, full of moving parts and relationships and situations, and when any of these is out of alignment or missing, your shalom breaks down. Life is no longer whole; it needs to be restored.

In fact, that’s the basic meaning of shalom when you use it as a verb. To bring shalom literally means to make complete or restore. So Solomon brings shalom to the unfinished temple when he completes it. Or if your animal accidentally damages your neighbor’s field, you shalom them by giving them a complete repayment for their loss. You take what’s missing, and you restore it to wholeness.

The same goes for human relationships. In the book of Proverbs, to reconcile and heal a broken relationship is to bring shalom. And when rival kingdoms make shalom in the Bible, it doesn’t just mean they stop fighting; it also means they start working together for each other’s benefit. This state of shalom is what Israel’s kings were supposed to cultivate, and it rarely happened. So the prophet Isaiah, he looked forward to a future king a prince of shalom. And his reign would bring shalom with no end—a time when God would make a covenant of shalom with his people and make right all wrongs and heal all that’s been broken.<sup>2</sup>

*How, though, can this light become ours? Notice it doesn’t just say, “For to us a child is born.” It also says, “to us a son is given.” It’s a gift. It can be yours only if you are willing to receive it as a gift of grace.<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from The Bible Project’s Advent Series Video: “Peace”  
<https://d1bsmz3sdihplr.cloudfront.net/media/Study%20Notes/Adv01-SN-1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Keller, Timothy. Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ (pp. 15-16). Penguin Publishing Group.