

# **Series: The Names of Our Savior**

**Sermon: Prince of Peace**

**Text: Isaiah 9:6**

**Gary L. Wackler**

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**Introduction:** Peace has been elusive since the Fall of Adam and Eve. Cain killed Abel. God wiped out all but 8 people in the world in the time of Noah. After that cataclysmic event man continued down the road of alienation and sin. Judges and kings later, and in spite of God's blessings, Israel refused to submit to their real Sovereign and possess genuine peace. After the long, and by most accounts, prosperous reign of King Uzziah Isaiah under the influence of God's Spirit said:

**Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)** <sup>6</sup>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.

This Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God and Everlasting Father had another functional title. At last a Messiah, and anointed One who would be called "Prince of Peace."

The names of our Savior, our Messiah, come to a climactic end here in **Isaiah 9:6**, but are echoed in his coming:

**Luke 2:14 (NIV)** <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

We heard Jesus talk of peace in his preparation for leaving his disciples on earth:

**John 16:33 (NIV)** <sup>33</sup>"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

And finally we heard about the cause of peace in Paul's writings to the church:

**Romans 5:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

This promised "Prince of Peace" would be responsible to:

## **I. Rule Forever**

We are used to term limits for many of the offices in government. Like Chief Justices for the Supreme Court there are some positions that are for life, but none forever. That is, until Jesus.

Jesus' rule *is* forever and as the "Prince of Peace" everything that he does is:

### A. For the King

The word "Prince" is not a diminished position. It is really about the Messiah's role, much like the idea of "Suffering Servant." Here the concept of "Prince" means administrator, i.e., doing what the King wants.

The Prince is responsible for both emulating and promoting righteousness and justice in the world. And His reign has no end!

Jesus, our Messiah, "is the 'Prince of Peace' because he champions justice and infuses his people with divine wholeness ([Isa. 11:4-9](#)). Although the wicked Ahaz sat temporarily on David's throne, Jesus Christ, the 'son of David' ([Matt. 1:1](#)) and 'Son of the living God' ([16:16](#)), would some day begin a righteous rule that would last 'forever' ([Isa. 9:7](#))." - Ronald F. Youngblood, *The Book of Isaiah: An Introductory Commentary*, Second Edition, p. 52

Jesus came to earth as *Prince of Peace*:

### B. So as to represent the King.

He wanted to tell us that He wanted us not only as subjects, but obedient children - family.

[John 14:24-27 \(NIV\)](#) <sup>24</sup>He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup>"All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>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.

[Matthew 19:14 \(NIV\)](#) <sup>14</sup>Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

God wanted Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to show us how much we are loved.

[John 13:1 \(NIV\)](#) <sup>1</sup>It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

This promised "Prince of Peace" would be responsible to:

## II. Bring the Gift

Jesus is not only the Giver, but he is also the gift. One of Jesus' most important gifts to his children is:

### A. Reconciliation

Reconciliation is initiated by God. He alone has the ability to restore what was lost in the Garden. It is through the blood of Jesus and his willing sacrifice that we may have the gift of reconciliation.

**II Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)** <sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

We are reconciled to God not by our merit or good works but by his grace. Yet like any gift it must be accepted. We all know people who are too proud to accept help from anybody. Where that might be OK in some situations, when it comes to our salvation that kind of attitude is deadly with God.

If we accept God's gift of salvation and his Holy Spirit lives in us then we are truly a part of his adopted family. We have been chosen. Once the alienation with God is removed, we can be reconciled with others.

Parts of the Church for over 50 years of my memory has been under the false impression that doing nice things for poor people will save them. The latest example of this is the new Salvation Army commercials. Not once in their commercials do they mention God or Jesus. My friends without Him there is no "Salvation" Army. You can be saved from abuse, poverty, drugs, or a life of crime and still go directly to hell.

Don't get me wrong I think the people of God need to help others in a material way. I just hope no one is duped into believing that is a substitute for the Bread of Life.

Paul said that he had learned to be content no matter what his material condition (**Philippians 4:11**). If we give people what they need materially without helping them spiritually, we will not succeed in the mission of the Church. People who do not know Jesus are never going to be satisfied with what they have. They will try to fill the hole in their lives with substitutes for God, and that is idolatry. Mankind is deficient in peace, but Jesus has an available and infinite supply.

**Matthew 25** is not a strategy for salvation, but an example of how people who are saved, act! And it is not that unsaved people don't help feed and clothe the poor, visit the sick and imprisoned, and offer water to people who are thirsty.

Reconciliation with God comes because of the Prince of Peace. It is in this gift exchange where God gives himself to us and we give ourselves to God that we realize:

### **B. Peace**

Peace that man tries to negotiate or construct has always proven to be elusive. Wars and military actions have been a part of all our memories. President Wilson signed the Treaty of Versailles in 1919 amid high hopes of peace. Soon, though world financial issues like *The Great Depression* and man's need to have power over others created the environment for war again. My father was a teenager when Pearl Harbor was attacked - and that brought the U.S. into WWII. When I was a teenager Vietnam was the war *du jour*. When my children were teenagers the Gulf Wars had everyone's attention. It will continue like this until history ends because man does not have a permanent solution for man's nature. "Washington is full of peace monuments built after every war."

About twenty years ago, Ted Turner, the founder of CNN was trying to promote world peace. He established the Goodwill Games. He announced his intention to give one billion dollars to the work of the United Nations. And finally, he promoted a competition to find a book that could give a workable plan for world peace.

In August 1993 Ted Turner announced to a gathering of contributors to CNN that the competition was a bust. "With 10,000 manuscripts, we did not have one plausible treatise on how we could get to a sustainable, peaceful future," Turner told the gathering.

— The Columbus Dispatch, 5-10-93, p. 2B

**Ted Turner forgot to read one manuscript – the Bible!**

**You don't need to be a great thinker to understand the problem.**

**"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."  
- attributed to Jimi Hendrix**

**Peace comes from outside as a gift, not from inside. Man is not good enough no matter what eastern religions and New-Age thinking may suggest.**

**A lot of people have tried to solve the problem of there being no lasting peace. There is human wisdom available for the problem. Many know a part of the answer, but still don't recognize the only eternal solution: the Prince of Peace.**

**Nobel Peace Prizes, the Peace Corps, special days set aside to concentrate on peace, wonderful groups like the Salvation Army, and all the Hollywood people you want to muster cannot change the fact that the world needs the Prince of Peace.**

**Besides, there is something far more important than being at peace with each other. Being at peace with God has to be established before any other peace is even possible.**

**In a real sense, Peace is not achieved it is received. It is truly a gift from God. There is no better feeling or condition than to be right with, and at peace with God.**

**So what do I mean when I say “peace?”**

**From a biblical perspective the word commonly translated “peace” from the Hebrew “shalom” is about a broader concept. “It means a harmonious, caring community with God at its center as the prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant.” - Foster, Freedom of Simplicity, p. 30**

**The verb for peace is “salem” and means to be whole and complete.**

**The more God is pushed to the periphery, the more elusive real peace will become.**

**It struck me a few years ago that in [John 5](#) that Jesus was actually asking the paralytic about “peace.” Jesus asked this man who had been paralyzed for 38 years, who had been looking for wellness in all the wrong ways and in all the wrong places: “Do you want to get well?” I really believe that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, was asking the man: “do you want to have peace, be at peace, with God?”**

**After Jesus heals him we can jump ahead in the story where it says:**

**[John 5:14-15 \(NIV\)](#) <sup>14</sup>Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” <sup>15</sup>The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

**Two things:**

- 1. There is something worse than poor physical health.**
- 2. The natural reaction to being made whole is that you tell others, even those who are not your friends.**

**Peace always comes at a heavy price. Isaiah told us about this Prince of Peace 700 years before he came when he said:**

**[Isaiah 53:5 \(NIV\)](#) <sup>5</sup> 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.**

**Conclusion:** Our Prince is unique just as His peace is one of a kind. This offered-peace is eternal in time and perfect in its administration.

**Isaiah 9:7 (NIV)** <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.

Even though I *know* it is God who takes the initiative with trying to bring you into His family, I feel mostly helpless being His ambassador. Nevertheless, may I recommend my Savior, the Prince of Peace. There can be no greater gift than to have a saving relationship with God the Father, through Jesus, the Son and Prince of Peace. This Advent season, my prayer is that you have peace in your soul because you have Jesus in your heart.

**“Peace is not the absence of trouble. Peace is the presence of God.” Will you accept him as your Savior, today?**