

Surrey Chapel Fellowship Group Notes December 14th/15th 2011 Prince of Peace

This study looks at the last of the four titles given to Christ in Isaiah 9:6. - The Prince of Peace. Before starting it may be useful to reflect on what we normally think of when using the word "peace". "Peace and quiet", a peaceful walk in the countryside perhaps, the opposite of war? Or is the true meaning of peace something deeper than this?

What is peace?

"Basically the OT word for peace *šālôm* means 'completeness', 'soundness' or 'well-being'. It is used when one asks of or prays for the welfare of another, when one is in harmony or concord with another, when one seeks the good of a city or country. It may mean material prosperity or physical safety. But also it may mean spiritual well-being. Such peace is the associate of righteousness and truth but not of wickedness." IVP New Bible Dictionary

Jesus - The Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6-7

"The verb, *šālôm* means 'to be whole, complete'. Prince corresponds to our idea of 'administrator'. This Prince, then, himself a whole personality, at one with God and with his people, administers the benefits of peace/ wholeness in his benign rule. This rule, however, will be unchanging in its character (and peace), without end in space and time (forever), the fulfillment of the Davidic ideal (Psalm 2:8 & 72:8-11), reflecting the holiness of God in its devotion to *justice* in practice and *righteousness* in principle, and guaranteed by the commitment (*zeal*) and activity (*accomplish*) of the LORD." - J Alec Motyer, Tyndale OT Commentary - Isaiah.

Peace and Advent

The subject of peace is particularly applicable to advent. Christ came into a fallen, chaotic and troubled world. The messianic hope was for an age of peace. See Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:1-9, Haggai 2:7-9, Micah 5:5. The two sections below show some ways in which this hope has been fulfilled in the New Testament.

If you have time you may like to reflect more deeply on how this Messianic role as the Prince of Peace was fulfilled a) during Jesus' earthly ministry, b) during the church age and c) will be after Christ returns.

Peace with God - Reconciliation

Colossians 1: 15-29 esp. 19-20

Reflect on the meaning of these two statements:
"and through him to reconcile to himself all things"
"by making peace through his blood"
See also Romans 5:1

Once sins enmity has been removed by Christ's death on the cross, inward peace can follow. See Philippians 4:7, John 14:27 and 16:33.

Jesus gives us his peace

John 20:19-31

What does Jesus mean by "peace" in verses 21 and 26? (Think particularly about the context of this verse.)

Our part to play

The disciples were to spread the message of peace. See Luke 10:5 and Acts 10:36.
We must actively promote peace. Ephesians 4:3, Hebrews 12:14, Romans 14:19, 1 Corinthians 14:33.
What can we do this Christmas?

As we come to the end of this mini-series studying the titles that tell of the coming Messiah - the King of Kings, we have seen how this king is:
Qualified to rule. - He is a wonderful counsellor.
His being and power. - He is the mighty God.
His relationship to his subjects. - He is the everlasting father.
The society his rule creates. - He is the prince of peace.

Prayer pointers

Give thanks to God for his names and attributes that we have been studying.
Christmas outreach - Carols in Anglia Square, Christmas services at Surrey Chapel.
Pray that God would speak to peoples hearts at carol services across the land this Christmas.
Pray that we would be able to share the peace and love of Christ with family and friends this Christmas.

ADB