

I. The recurring Themes of Peace P.43

A. Peace is part of God's character

"Now the God of peace be with you all." **Romans 15:33 NASB**

"Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." **2 Corinthians 13:11 NASB**

"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." **Philippians 4:9 NASB**

"Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead...Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will,..." **Hebrews 13:20-21 NASB**

"The LORD said to him, "Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and named it The LORD is Peace. " **Judges 6:23-24 NASB**

B. Peace is a great blessing from God p. 44

Peace is one of the great blessings that God gives to His disciples.

"I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making you tremble..." **Leviticus 26:6 NASB**

"The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace." **Numbers 6:24-26 NASB**

"So may all your enemies perish, Lord! But may all who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength." Then the land had peace forty years." **Judges 5:31 NIV**

"The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace." **Psalms 29:11 NASB**

"Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble." **Psalms 119:165 NASB**

"When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him." **Proverbs 16:7 NASB**

"¹ And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. ² Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³ And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up

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sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. ⁴ Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken." Micah 1:1-4

¹⁵ ... but a new creation. ¹⁶ And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God." Galatians 6:16

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength:" Isaiah 26:3-4 KJV

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 5:1 NASB

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 NASB

C. Seek and pursue peace! P.44

God repeatedly commands His people to seek and pursue peace.

"Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it." Psalms 34:14 NASB

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7 NIV

"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another." Romans 14:19 NASB

"Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace." 1 Corinthians 7:15 NASB

"Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." 2 Corinthians 13:11 NASB

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful." Colossians 3:15 NASB

"and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another." 1 Thessalonians 5:13 NASB

"Pursue peace with all men,..." Hebrews 12:14

God promises to bless those who seek and pursue peace.

"Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright; For the man of peace will have a posterity." Psalms 37:37 NASB

"Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy." Proverbs 12:20 NASB

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9 NASB

"And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." **James 3:18 NASB**

D. God describes His covenant with Israel in terms of peace. P.44

.God describes His covenant with Israel in terms of peace. From 70 AD to May 1948 the people of Israel were without a country and persecuted horribly. However they are back in the nation of Israel now and probably more safe now than since the time of King Solomon. The promise of peace is still effective and total peace will arrive someday. The Bible says:

"Therefore say, 'Behold, I give him My covenant of peace;'" **Numbers 25:12 NASB**

"For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken," Says the LORD who has compassion on you.+**Isaiah 54:10 NASB**

"I will make a covenant of peace with them..." **Ezekiel 34:25 NASB**

"They will live on the land that I gave to Jacob My servant, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons' sons, forever; and David My servant will be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever." **Ezekiel 37:25-26 NASB**

"My covenant with him (Levi) was one of life and peace, and I gave them to him as an object of reverence; so he revered Me and stood in awe of My name." **Malachi 2:5 NASB**

E. "Grace and peace to you" as a greeting p.44

Ken Sande said "God taught His people to use the word "peace" (Hebrew "shalom") as a standard form of greeting and parting". Shalom is a standard form of greeting among Jews today in Israel.

Greeting:

The LORD said to him, Peace to you, do not fear; you shall not die.+**Judges 6:23**

He said, Peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. ..." **1 Samuel 16:5**

"... He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you." **Luke 24:36**

Parting:

"Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him." **1 Samuel 1:17**

"He (Elisha) said to him (Naaman), "Go in peace." So he departed from him" **2 Kings 5:19**

"And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." **Luke 7:50**

"And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." **Luke 8:48**

There are 18 verses in Paul's, Peter's and Jude Epistles that contain some form of "Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" below are 4 examples.
"to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." **Romans 1:7**

"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13**

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ," **Galatians 1:3**

"Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance. The Lord be with you all!" **2 Thessalonians 3:16**

F. Nothing reveals God's concern for peace more vividly than His decision to send His son P. 44

"...To guide our feet into the way of peace." **Luke 1:79**

"And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war." **Isaiah 2:4**

"⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." **Isaiah 9:6**

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." **John 14:27**

"AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;" **Ephesians 2:17**

II. Three Dimensions to the peace that God offers to us through Jesus Christ P. 44

A. Peace with God P. 44

Isaiah 59: ¹ Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.

² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Romans 3: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6: ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 3: ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Colossians 1: ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, ..., by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Romans 5: ¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

Romans 3: ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

Ephesians 2: ⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Isaiah 53: ¹Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

1 Peter 2: ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Great Exchange 2 Corinthians 5: ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

B. Peace with others p. 46

Ephesians 2: ¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from

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citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Psalms 133: ¹ How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

C. Peace with yourself p. 46

Internal peace is a by-product of righteousness. 1 John 3: ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Isaiah 26:3 ³ "The steadfast of mind You will keep in perfect peace. Because he trusts in You. **32:** ¹⁷ And the work of righteousness will be peace. And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever. **Psalm 85:** ¹⁰ Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. **119:** ¹⁶⁵ Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble. **Isaiah 48:** ¹⁸ "If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being [peace] would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

1 John 3: ²³ This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

III. Jesus Reputation Depends on Unity p. 47

Matthew 5: ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

John 17: ²⁰ "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

John 13:34-35 ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 Corinthians 13: ⁴ Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take

into account a wrong suffered, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Matthew 5: ⁹ *"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*

1 Peter 2: ¹² *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

Matthew 5: ²¹ *"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.*

²³ *Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.*

1 John 4: ¹⁹ *We love, because He first loved us. ²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.*

IV. The Enemy of Peace p. 50

1 Peter 5: 8b *Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

Acts 5:3 *But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?"*

2 Timothy 2: ²⁵ *with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

Ephesians 4: ²⁶ *BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

1 Timothy 4: ¹ *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³ men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*

James 4: ⁷ *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

1 Peter 5: ⁹ *But resist him [Satan], firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.*

Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

V. Strive Like a Gladiator p. 51 [in book Romans 15:5-7, 1 Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 5:19-22, Colossians 3:13,15, 1 Thessalonians 5:13b-15, Ephesians 4:1-3]

Unity does not mean conformity Ephesians 4:7-13, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Romans 14:1

Ephesians 4: ²⁹*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.* ³⁰*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.* ³¹*Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.* ³²*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

VI. Lawsuits among Believers p. 53 [in book 1 Corinthians 6:1-8]

Matthew 18: ¹⁵*"If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.* ¹⁶*But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.* ¹⁷*If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.* ¹⁸*Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.* ¹⁹*"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.* ²⁰*For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."*

VII. Summary and Application p. 56