

The Peace & Prosperity of Jerusalem

By Pastor Peter Rahme

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek thy good. (Psalm 122:6-9)

Peace! What Peace!

This may be the normal reaction of the average person in the street to the notion of peace and prosperity in that “cosmopolitan city” of conflicts and contrasts. To some, the negative sentiment of Jeremiah’s Lamentations “ *they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?*”(Lamentation 2:15b), seems to fit more at home than the positive sense of the psalm above.

And no wonder, judging by the horrendous acts and the horrible atrocities, which are repeated daily on her streets and reported nightly on our TV screens, one can easily understand how this cynical attitude is subtly developed.

On the other hand, the Bible - God’s inerrant word, paints a glowingly bright future with a gloriously blessed finale for Jerusalem.

Come with me as we wonder thru her grand gates, walk on her stony streets, wait on her rocky roads, watch at her Wailing Wall, and wave at her people, princes and prophets that pass by. .

I.THE CITY OF PEACE

THE CITY

There’s never been a city like *Jerusalem*, nor ever will be! Just as *Israel* is the only country in the world with the name of God in it, *Jerusalem* is the only city in the world that has the protection of God on it. Jerusalem, the city which the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there (2 Kings 12:13) is no ordinary city.

She is mentioned over 700 hundred times in the Bible. This CITY OF GOD (Psalm 48:1) for instance, is featured quite prominently in the life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It’s clear for all to see that SALEM (Genesis 14:18) has not as yet had the privilege to light up her beautiful character nor the pleasure to live up to her peaceful name. Instead this CITY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (Isaiah 1: 26) has been downgraded decade after decade; downtrodden century after century.

Unlike any other city in the world, she’s learned to endure hardship and lived to embrace suffering at the hands of the Egyptians, the Philistines, the Syrians, the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Persians, The Greeks, the Romans, The Byzantines, the Moslems, the Turks and sadly also by a section of Christendom.

Destroyed and rebuilt 14 times, this CITY OF TRUTH (Zechariah 8:3), founded by King David over 3000 years ago (2 Samuel 5:6-12), was divinely reborn on the 14th May AD 1948 *when* the United Nation announced that its members have formally recognised the State of Israel.

Ever since that God ordained day, when David Ben Gurion read the declaration of independence over the radio, this CITY OF DAVID (2 Samuel 6:12), geographically- a very small dot on the Middle East map, and numerically – a population of just 620,000 people, has played a leading role on the world stage of passion and politics.

On Wednesday June 7, 1967, the Union Jack, flying high since 1917 (after the allied armies under general Edmund Henry Allenby liberated Jerusalem from the 400 year of Turkish rule), went down and the Star of David went up. The amazing and miraculous victory of the 6-day war, completed the long held dream of “NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM” when the HOLY CITY (Isaiah 52:1) divided for 50 years between Arab and Jew, was recaptured by Israel, and re-united fully to her, ending 2500 years of Gentile control.

Now Indivisible in nature and international in stature, The CITY OF THE LORD (Isaiah 60:14) has the eyes of the world follow her every single move.

.....OF PEACE

When the world gives peace or more accurately gives *in* and calls it peace, it is more often by the influence of power and force, position of strength, pressure of economics, popular demands, or the persuasion of the media and their tycoons. Even then, this man-made and manipulating process is impotent and doesn't last much. Despite all the socialist public marches in streets and all the sincere performance of music on stages, no state is still more elusive and no dream is more desired than that of peace.

The words of ex-Beatle John Lennon, who himself was violently gunned down -"Give peace a chance "seems to have fallen on deaf ears and dead bodies .In the final analysis and so far, all that the world has achieved, other than sing and shout about it, was to: *Seek and pose more questions, Suggest and propose new ideas and Sign pact after pact outlawing war.* But all to no avail as the witnessing of terror and turmoil, troubles and tragedies clearly demonstrates.

On the other hand, the Bible foretells that this CITY OF THE GREAT KING (Matthew 5:33) will, in fact, experience the peace she so longed for, but has, so far known very little of.

This will not take place, however, until her king - THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, who is the prince of peace returns back to this earth in power and glory to rule over this world for 1000 years and to reign from Jerusalem herself. The Bible says:

“But in the last days it shall come to pass, And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.(Micah 4: 1-2)

Under HIS righteous rule in the magnificent Millennium, Ariel –the hearth of God (Isaiah 29:1) will finally be SAFE, SOUND and SECURE as the CITY OF THE LORD OF HOSTS – (Psalm 48:8) shall be:

Protected by the power of the king – (Isaiah.14: 32)

Enlarged greatly over its former area - (Jeremiah 31:38-40)

Accessible to all - (Isaiah.35: 8-9)

City of Glory bringing honour unto Jehovah – (Isaiah.52: 1-12); *and she will*

Endure forever –(Isaiah. 9:7)

We can all rest assured that God will fulfil ALL of His promises which He made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and all the prophets.

II. THE CAPITOL OF PROSPERITY

The picture that the masterful hand of God paints for Jerusalem in the age to come is one of uninterrupted peace and unlimited prosperity. Jeremiah the weeping prophet predicted:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: (23:5 –6a).....At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem (3:17 a);”

In the history books of man, page after page details the cruel past of Jerusalem. Over her life’s span she’s been conquered and reconquered 38 times. However in the Holy book of God, prophet after prophet declares the future for Jerusalem as great and glorious, as well as bright and blessed. Consider the prophet Isaiah:

“...And it shall come to pass in the last days..... many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up ..., to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (2:1 - 3);.... And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. ...And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. (65:19–23).....

Both, the “THAT TIME” (Jeremiah 3:17a) and the “IN LAST DAYS” (Isaiah 2:1), refer to what the scripture calls “the Kingdom” otherwise known as the Millennium (1000 years see -Revelation.20:1–3)

What is the Millennium?

The Millennial Kingdom is that golden age that links the last chapter of man’s earthly history with God’s eternal order. Isaac Watts wrote a joyful carol about it. In his famous *Joy to the world* he sheds some penetrating light with expression such as: *The Lord is come:Let earth receive her King..... He rules the world with truth and grace,..... And makes the nations prove.....and heaven and nature sing.* etc..etc...

In that unique time in history people all over the world will actually be free not only to discuss and mix religion with politics without getting into a heated argument but also to go beyond into true spirituality and government. Bible teacher *Dr Warren W. Wiersbe* gives 6 reasons why he believes that there will be a literal thousand– year kingdom on earth:

1. To fulfil the Old Testament promises to Israel (Luke 1:30-31)
2. To give a public display of Christ’s glory to the nations of earth;
3. To answer the prayer of “thy kingdom come;”
4. To fulfil the promises to the church that saints will reign with Christ;
5. To bring about the complete redemption of nature as promised in Romans 8:19-22;
6. To give man one final trial under the sovereign rule of Christ. (Expository Outlines on the New Testament p 507)

Here it is in an acrostic nutshell ...

Messiah shall return to rule and reign with the saints for 1000 years out of Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:1-4; 9:7; 24:23; Revelation 20:4).

Israel will be back in her land (Zechariah 8:7-8)

Longevity of life & prosperity in work will be much enjoyed (Isaiah 65:20; 4:1; 35:1-2; 62:8,9)

Language & worship will be pure (Zephaniah 3:9; Isaiah 45:13).

Earth shall be full of the Knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9-10).

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:2-3).

Instruction and learning will continue (Isaiah 2:2-3)

Universal peace & righteousness, judgement & justice with assurance for the poor (Isaiah 11: 3-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6)

Manifestation of the fullness of the spirit & the Holiness of God (Isaiah 11:2-5; Zechariah 14:20-21)

In Closing

Dear reader, like the city of Jerusalem you too can experience peace of mind and prosperous soul. What's more, you don't need to wait for the coming Millennium to enter into this dynamic relationship with the Living God, and to enjoy this deep fellowship with the Loving Father.

In fact this can be yours right now, if you invite the King of peace – The Lord Jesus Christ to be your own Saviour.

The Bible says: **"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"** (Romans 5:1)

**"Jesus says... I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** (John 14: 6)

God invites you today to repent of your sin and receive His Son. It is as simple as **ABC**:

Acknowledge you sinned & broke God's commandments; (Psalm 32:5; James 2; 10)

Because Adam and Eve broke God's first commandment in the Garden of Eden, and the entire human race broke His Ten Commandments given on Mount Sinai (Compare Exodus 20:3 -17 with James 2:10), we, the imperfect creatures and impotent sinners that we are now, all fail to measure up to God's standard and therefore fall short of His glory. Consequently there is death to face in this life and judgement to follow in the one to come

Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again ;(1 Thessalonians 4:14)

Call upon His name, right now, to save you for all eternity. (Romans 10:13)

Here is a suggested prayer!

(This is the most important request; you'll ever have to ask God for in your lifetime!)

Dear Lord God

***I am sorry that I have sinned against you & broken your commandments;
I turn away from my sins.***

Please forgive me, and be merciful to me a sinner.

I believe Jesus Christ died and rose again

I NOW receive You, Lord Jesus, into my heart as my Saviour and Lord.

Thank you Lord for saving my soul and for giving me a new life.

Make me the person that you want me to be.

In JESUS Name, I pray. Amen.

With the love of Christ

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