
Sermon Notes

December 24, 2023

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Prince of Peace

Isaiah 52:1-7

Shalom

- ❖ The world is not the way it is supposed to be
- ❖ The Bible has a great, one-word summary of the way God designed things to be
 - *shalom*
 - the fullness, wholeness and completeness with which God originally blesses every aspect of His creative handiwork
- ❖ Our lives and the world in which we live is not characterized by either peace or *shalom*

Prince of Peace

- ❖ Isaiah foretells of a coming Prince of Peace
 - Jesus has come to earth and returned to heaven, but the full and final fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy about His role as Prince of Peace awaits a future moment
 - when Jesus comes again, He will have peace, make peace, and bring peace to a world in conflict
- ❖ Jesus' arrival in the Bethlehem manger marks a monumental stride forward in the progress of peace
 - ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"*** (Luke 2:14)

- Jesus gives a preview of what *shalom* is like as He heals the sick, restores sight to the blind, causes the lame to walk, raises the dead
- when Jesus comes again, He will restore everything to the glorious condition of *shalom* which marked all of Creation at its beginning
- ***Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.*** (Isaiah 9:7)
- ❖ Messiah's mission is to bring glory to God by ending enmity between God and His people and reversing the curse of sin
 - the pathway Messiah must follow to accomplish the things that make for peace is anything **BUT** peaceful (Isaiah 53:5)
 - the purchase of peace comes at a great price
 - hostility between God and His children can only cease when
 - He himself bears the sin that causes it
 - He takes the curse of sin on Himself
 - He is ***despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief***

True Peace

- ❖ Lasting peace can only be accomplished when the underlying causes for war are removed
 - before true peace can be experienced between people and among nations, peace must exist between God and humanity
 - the curse of enmity must be lifted
 - people must be at peace with God
 - God must be at peace with people

- ❖ We need a supernatural reset if we are to be restored to our manufacturer's original, default settings
 - that is what the Prince of Peace comes to earth to accomplish
 - Isaiah 52:6-7
 - *here I am!*
 - Emmanuel = God with us
 - I am here to bring *good news of happiness*
 - I am here to announce *good news of great joy*
 - Romans 5:1, *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

A Coming Kingdom

- ❖ A kingdom is coming over which Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace will reign with perfect justice and perfect righteousness
 - when Jesus came the first time, He displayed signs of His kingdom and offered His Kingdom to people
 - most who heard Jesus' invitation rejected it
 - Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because of this rejection
 - Jesus' gracious invitation to citizenship in His kingdom continues to be rejected today
 - Isaiah 57:18-21, a dramatic difference between those who accept and those who reject Jesus' "kingdom offer"
 - when Jesus comes again, citizenship in His kingdom will not be offered on a take it or leave it basis
 - at that time, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord
 - but not everyone will experience *shalom*

- ❖ The time to accept Jesus' gracious invitation is TODAY!
 - peace with God
 - peace with yourself
 - peace with others
 - do you have this peace?
 - do you want this peace?
- ❖ Embrace Jesus, welcome Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to rule and reign in your life this Christmas!
 - you have no reason to mistrust Him
 - Jesus is all you will ever need
- ❖ Find *shalom* in
 - **loving** God's light and embracing God's peace
 - **looking** to Jesus as your Wonderful Counselor for wisdom, guidance and direction
 - **resting** in Jesus, Mighty God, the One who rescues you and overcomes your weaknesses with His strength
 - **coming home** to Jesus, the Father of eternity, who offers you everlasting life and face-to-face fellowship with Him forever

Personal Reflection

1. How do you assess your level of peace with God? with yourself? with others? What will you do differently if you find yourself lacking peace in any of these areas?
2. If you have previously rejected Jesus' offer to you as Prince of Peace, what is currently standing in the way of your acceptance of it?