

Sunday, December 20, 2015—Christmas Program 2015—The Prince of Peace

Introduction

- Isaiah 9:6-7—is one of the passages that people hear quoted a lot this time of year. These verses are prophetic regarding the birth of Jesus Christ.
- There is much that could be said about these two verses within the context of Christmas but I want to spend our abbreviated time together this morning looking at one of the names of Christ mentioned in verse 6, “The Prince of Peace.”
- Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the second member of the Godhead, came into the world some 2,000 years ago and the world is yet to see or experience the peace that was supposed to be associated with the birth of this child.
- Even now, at the end of 2015, we are living in perilous times. The news is full of stories of mass shootings, suicide bombings, terrorist attacks, and saber rattling in the Middle East. Our world political leaders are thumping their chests as they debate how to best deal with the foreign policy issues facing the United States. Turkey is shooting down Russian fighter planes.
- In short, the world appears anything but peaceful as believers prepare to celebrate the birth of “The Prince of Peace.” How can this be? Atheists and skeptics alike will point to passages like this and the apparent lack of peace as proof that Jesus wasn’t God and that the Bible is a made up human document.
- This morning I want to look at two different types of peace associated with “The Prince of Peace.”
 - Political Peace
 - Personal Peace

Political Peace

- Isaiah 9:6-7—in this passage “The Prince of Peace” is dealing with the establishment of political peace on earth. Notice that the child born in verse 6, upon whose shoulders the government will rest, has something to do with the establishment of the throne of David in verse 7.
- II Samuel 7:12-16—the Davidic Covenant established that David’s house, kingdom, and throne would stand forever.
- Luke 1:26-32—according to Isaiah 9, and the angel Gabriel here in Luke 1, the child of prophecy would fulfill the Davidic Covenant by ordering and establishing the throne of David.

- Luke 1:67-71—the raising up of the horn of salvation in the house of David was to save Israel from her enemies i.e., bring in political and governmental peace.
- Luke 2:8-14—the night Jesus was born a multitude of heavenly hosts sang glory to God and peace on earth and good will toward men.
- What happened? Why did Jesus Christ not usher in the prophetic peace foretold by the Old Testament foretold in Isaiah 2:1-4; 11:6-9 and Micah 4:3?
- Luke 1:76-77—before the prophesied political peace could be established the Godhead needed to deal with the sin of the nation.
- Matthew 1:21—according to everything God had made known up to this point in history, Jesus Christ came into the world to die for the sins of his people, i.e., the nation of Israel.
- I Peter 1:10-11—the prophets foretold both the suffering and glory of Christ despite the fact that they did not understand how both fit together.
- Acts 3:18—after the cross Peter tells the nation that everything the prophets had spoken about pertaining to the suffering of Christ had been fulfilled. So then, with the suffering fulfilled what was left? The glory of the kingdom.
- Acts 3:19-21—if Israel would repent for their part in the death of her Messiah, God the Father would send Jesus Christ back to them to execute the rest of the prophetic program and usher in the days of peace.
- The nation at large rejected the message of Peter and the apostles during the early Acts period and so God rendered that nation in unbelief and set them aside temporarily so that he could unveil his “hidden wisdom.”

Personal Peace

- I Corinthians 2:7-8—if Satan and his minions had known about the wisdom of God in a mystery they never would have crucified Christ.
- Ephesians 2:13-18—the blood of Jesus Christ provided the mechanism by which the body of Christ could be formed. The cross work of Christ has brought peace between Jew and Gentile.
- Ephesians 3:1-11—the formation of this new man is occurring during the present dispensation of Grace which was a mystery until it was revealed to the Apostle Paul.
- Romans 3:24-25—what God is doing today is justifying people by his grace on the basis of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Romans 5:1—what God is offering people today is peace with him through “our Lord Jesus Christ.” God is offering you personal peace with him. God is offering you the knowledge that His offended justice against your sin has been once and for all time stratified by the death of “The Prince of Peace.

Conclusion

- If you are looking for the political peace today can I tell that is going to have to wait. When God’s purpose is done with the body of Christ and this dispensation comes to an end God will fulfill his plan and purpose with Israel.
- Jesus Christ will return in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that no not God, rid the earth of all things that offend, and establish a reign of perfect righteousness and political peace.
- “The Prince of Peace” is offering you personal peace with God. This Christmas won’t you receive the free gift of eternal life?