

Jan. 19, 2014

Prince of Peace
Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah 9:6

King James Version (KJV)

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

So what is the objective of studying the five names of the Messiah?

Christ is a very complex Son. By understanding why He would be named each of these names we can more fully identify who Christ really is.

The more we know about Christ, the more we should want to serve Him.

The more we know about Christ, the more closely we can try to live our lives like Him, as He commanded.

The more we know about Christ, the more hope we can have for our salvation.

It is my job as a minister to preach the gospel and encourage you in your faith and to save the lost.

Paul stated in

1 Corinthians 1:21-24

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. ²² For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

God used the “foolishness of the message preached” to save those who believe. What was preached was “Christ Crucified”.

The believers understood the message to reveal Christ as the power of God and the wisdom of God.

BODY:

The fourth name given to the Messiah in Isaiah is

Everlasting Father

How can the Son be called the Father? After all isn't Christ the “Son of God”? In some ways he is the Father in that the God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one (the Trinity).

But the Hebrew, according to scholars, is translated to mean that Christ is the “Father of Eternity”.

John 1:1-2

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God.

Verse 1 sounds a lot like the beginning of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 is talking about the beginning of God's creation, the beginning of time. John 1:1-2 is much more than that.

The reason this verse is written here is to point out that:

before time began,
before Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem,
even before Genesis 1:1 when He created the heavens and the earth,
God existed and Jesus existed. It points to the eternal existence of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In John, Jesus is referred to as the Word. The Bible contains the inspired Word of God. Through our study of it, we can know how to live our lives for God.

An interesting thing about this passage is it says Jesus **"was God"** which would indicate that He has the **same characteristics** as God and was **absolutely identical**, but, it also says Jesus **"was with God"** which indicates that He was somehow also a **separate entity** from God.

From a human perspective, you cannot **"be"** God and also be **"with"** God.

The idea of the trinity is that God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one, living eternally. They are a unity, yet they are individual, yet they are one.

Is it beyond my comprehension, but it says a lot, doesn't it? It suggests how much above and beyond God is to mankind, but yet He makes Himself available to us through His written Word.

The Hebrew translation says that Christ is the "Father of Eternity".

God sent Christ to seek and save that which was lost.

This is the will of Him Who sent Me.

When we live our life for Christ and become His Children, He gives us eternal life with Him in Heaven by His grace.

But, according to the scripture we all will live eternally after we die.

How do we become eternal Beings?

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³⁵ But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; ³⁷ and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. ³⁸ But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

...

⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. ⁴⁵ So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.

⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

...

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in vain* in the Lord.

Our earthly body is like a seed. The seed is planted, dies, and becomes a plant much different than the seed. We will all go through this transformation from mortal beings and become eternal beings.

I can't wait to experience this transformation and experience what an eternal being will be like.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Let us work to ensure that we will be in one of these two groups the dead in Christ or the living serving Christ when this resurrection occurs.

“Therefore comfort one another with these words” leads us into the next name given to the Messiah.

The fifth name given to the Messiah is

Prince of Peace

Although the term, Prince of peace, is only **used once** in Scripture it is at the core of Christ’s mission to earth.

Why is Jesus given this title?

What kind of peace does He bring?

Matt. 10:34 and Luke 12:51 both say that Christ did not come to bring peace on earth.

Matthew 10:34-39

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³⁴ “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; ³⁶ and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD.

How could the scripture leave out Son-in-Law against his Mother-in-Law?

³⁷ “He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹ He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

What Christ is saying is that our love for Him **must** come first. If serving Christ strains relations because they do not approve of our faith, then it must be! He must be Lord in our lives!

Peace can refer to many things

- National peace, where nations are not at war but voluntarily cooperate with each other.
- Peace in our communities hoping that crime and distrust will be things of the past.
- Tranquil family life where there is not fighting, arguing, hurt feelings.
- Personal inner peace as we long for release from stress or guilt.
- There are many ways we could desire the Prince of Peace.

But in which of these ways is Jesus the Prince of peace?

Although Jesus is the Prince of peace, He did not come to deal directly with any of the above situations. All of the unrest in the above paragraph, has the same root cause.

SIN.

God created mankind through Adam to live in harmony with Him. It is a vital part of our make-up.

Satan initiated a war against God. Adam, as the representative of mankind, voluntarily joined Satan in this war against God.

The peace of the universe was shattered and the great war invades every aspect of life. Now, instead of light and joy and peace, a massive shadow rolled over all of creation.

This shadow of sin infected everything as a cancer eating away at a once healthy body.

Every human being is born into this war on Satan's side. We become accountable for our sins, we all rebel against God. Every time we sin, we raise a hateful fist into the face of God and defy Him to stop us. We are all guilty.

Because we have no peace with God, we can have no ultimate peace with each other. We may have friendships because of our common war against God or a cease-fire for mutual benefit, but true peace can never be without God.

God is perfect justice; therefore, He is at war with everyone who is war with Him.

God designed Hell for the rebellious angels. When mankind joined Satan in war against God, that became their destiny as well.

What really was at stake in this war?

It **was not God's** position. God is God and can never be dethroned. That was Satan's fantasy, but part of being God is being in total control. God Himself was never threatened.

The **angels also are not the object** of this war. The angels made a one time decision to obey or rebel. They are forever locked into their decision. The rebellious angels, now called demons, are going inevitably to Hell. Nothing that happens between now and then can change that. Their dark destiny was fixed the moment they rebelled.

So what is the only changeable object in this war?

The only ones who can change sides are **human beings**. Jesus came to offer peace with God to mankind. We can change sides. We do not have to be locked into a dark destiny like the demons. Because Jesus is the Prince of peace, we can enter into a new, loving relationship with God. We can have what Adam had before the Fall...and more. It is all there.

This peace did not come at zero cost...nothing ever does. As Perfect Justice God could not simply pretend that nothing had happened. The crime of rebellion had been committed, the war had been started, **Perfect Justice requires perfect punishment**. In order for peace to exist between God and man, someone had to take the punishment.

To become the Prince of peace and bring us back to God, **Jesus** - God as a human being - **had to take the punishment for our rebellion**. He had to pay the price for our sins. The pain, suffering and work of the cross was the cost to bring an offer of peace from God to man.

Now Jesus, the Prince of peace, stands and offers forgiveness and amnesty to **all who will accept Him as Lord and Savior**. Our rebellion and warfare against God can be forgiven. We can have peace with God and eternal life with Him. There is only one term to this complete amnesty: **unconditional surrender**.

Now that Jesus has completed His primary mission of bringing peace between God and mankind, He also brings peace between all people who have accepted amnesty from God. As we are at peace with God, we can be at peace with each other on every level.

Ephesians 2:14-18

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one* and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. ¹⁷ AND 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 our access in one Spirit to the Father.

All Christians are now at peace with God and each other. But, we know this is a process. Although we are saved and original sin is removed, we still struggle with individual sins and sometimes make war on those to whom we are supposed to be at peace with. God forgive us.

There will always be peace and war in a world infected with sin. When we make peace, through our Prince of peace, with God, we automatically declare war on Satan and all his forces. **There is no neutrality in life.** The only question in life is **with whom will we be at war and with whom will we be at peace.**

John 14:27

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁷ 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.

The peace Jesus gives is not worldly, it is spiritual. In fact it is one of the fruits of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22-24

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

We know from the scriptures that there will not be true peace on earth until the Lord comes again, but we can be assured of peace in our lives when we trust in the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

Isaiah 9:6

King James Version (KJV)

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Wonderful.

The wonder of His birth was only wonderful because of the wonder of His death. Jesus left heaven to live among us on earth and die on the cross for our sins.

Counsellor.

Christ is our source of perfect wisdom. He has a perfect knowledge of everything and a perfect plan to bring about His perfect will. We need Him to teach us how to love, live, and labor for Him.

The Mighty God.

Christ was not born into this world **and then became** God's Son. He was sent into this world as a preexisting Son, the eternal Son of the eternal God.

The Everlasting Father.

Christ is the Father of eternity. Only through Christ do we have hope of an eternal life in Heaven.

The Prince of Peace.

Christ did not come to give worldly peace, but spiritual peace to His children. It is a fruit of the Spirit.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.