

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Peace talks in the Middle East have been ongoing for decades, with various attempts at resolution dating back to the post-war period and continuing to the present day. Significant events include the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, the [1949 Armistice Agreements](#), the [Camp David Accords](#) of 1978, the [Oslo Accords](#) of 1993, and the [Madrid Conference](#) of 1991, among others.

Jeremiah 6.14 NKJV “They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, “Peace, peace, When *there is no peace.*”

Isaiah 57.21 NKJV “*There is no peace,*” Says my God, “for the wicked.”

Proverbs 29.9 NKJV “*If a wise man contends with a foolish man, Whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.*”

1 Thessalonians 5.3 NKJV “For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”

How do the following texts describe the future that God had envisioned for His people?

Jesus is the Prince of peace:

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) “For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

God prospers us and elevates our value:

Isaiah 60:17 (NKJV) “Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your magistrates righteousness.”

God will neutralize the elements that can harm us:

Hosea 2:18 (NKJV) “In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely.”

God will turn assets of war INTO assets of peace:

Micah 4:3 (NKJV) “He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.”

Although the **main focus of this week’s lesson** has constituted the divinely commanded and assisted wars of the Old Testament, we need to mention the presence of another equally significant theme of the Old Testament’s prophetic writings: **the future vision of the peaceful Messianic era. The Messiah is depicted as the “Prince of Peace”**

Jesus will usher in a kingdom dominated by peace, where the lion and the lamb will graze together:

Isaiah 11:1-8 (NKJV) “(1) There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (2) The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of

the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5)
Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the
belt of His waist. (6) “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The
leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the
young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead
them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones
shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
(8) The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the
weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.”

The kingdom that Jesus establishes there will be no destruction or
hurt:

Isaiah 11:9 (NKJV) “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy
mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the
LORD As the waters cover the sea.”

In Christ’s kingdom peace will rule:

Isaiah 60:17 (NKJV) ““Instead of bronze I will bring gold, Instead
of iron I will bring silver, Instead of wood, bronze, And instead of
stones, iron. I will also make your officers peace, And your
magistrates righteousness.”

In Christ’s kingdom peace will flow like a river:

Isaiah 66:12 (NKJV) “For thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will
extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the Gentiles like
a flowing stream. Then you shall feed; On her sides shall you be
carried, And be dandled on her knees.”

What insights does this story provide into the deeper purposes
of God for His people and humanity?

2 Kings 6:16-23 (NKJV) “(16) So he answered, “Do not fear, for
those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”
(17) And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes
that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young

man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. (18) So when the Syrians came down to him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, and said, "Strike this people, I pray, with blindness." And He struck them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. (19) Now Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, nor is this the city. Follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." But he led them to Samaria. (20) So it was, when they had come to Samaria, that Elisha said, "LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see." And the LORD opened their eyes, and they saw; and there they were, inside Samaria! (21) Now when the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I kill them? Shall I kill them?" (22) But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." (23) Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel."

Consider the story of the feeding of the Syrian army at the initiative of Elisha. Instead of massacring them, he showcased to them the supreme ideal, peace, which has always been God's desire for His people

2 Kings 6:22 (NKJV) "But he answered, "You shall not kill them. Would you kill those whom you have taken captive with your sword and your bow? Set food and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master.""

It is interesting to observe that Elisha is fully aware of the superiority of the invisible army that surrounds the enemy:

2 Kings 6:17 (NKJV) "And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

As much as God is involved in a cosmic conflict that has also affected our planet, the final goal of redemption is not a perpetual conflict or even an eternal subjugation of the enemy in a state of slavery, but instead, everlasting peace. As violence breeds violence but peace engenders peace:

Matthew 26:52 (NKJV) “But Jesus said to him, “Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.”

The story concludes by stating that the “ **Struagd%rr9** you shall destroy their alters did not come again on raids into the land of Israel” ——

2 Kings 6:23 (NKJV) “Then he prepared a great feast for them; and after they ate and drank, he sent them away and they went to their master. So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel.”

1. There is no lasting peace without Jesus:

- a. **John 16.33 NKJV “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.””**

b.

Think about all the ways we can, by seeking to emulate Jesus, be agents of peace. What about your own life right now? In what ways, in whatever conflict you might be