

OUR KING OF PEACE

December 15, 2019

Psalm 2; Isaiah 11:1-16; Philippians 2:1-11; Revelation 5, 21, 22

“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. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end.” Isaiah 9:6, 7

God created a perfect universe. There was no death, no illness, no trauma and no war. Man had ability not to sin, and thus lived in perfect peace. Then Adam sinned, bringing the curse of sin upon the whole creation, and ending man’s tranquility. The extent of that devastation was evident within a generation, when the first death occurred—a murder dealt by the victim’s brother. By the time of the flood, “the earth was filled with violence” (Gen. 6:11).

“The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isa. 57:20, 21). “From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness” (Mark 7:21-22). These all beget discord. “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?” (James 4:1).

History is the record of wars. Military, police and security forces; courts, judges and investigators, yea, the existence of governments testifies that animosity, hatred and violence abound within humanity. Internationally, nations unite to guard their shared interests. Nationally, political factions war among themselves. Societal groups gather around special interests to preempt other interests. Families feud. Violated conscience and fear of revenge torment the mind. Guilt, fear, defense mechanisms, lies and hosts of other evils promote internal discord and despair. At every level—personal, familial, community, regional, national and international—mankind is at war.

At its root, discord and warfare arise from mankind’s war against God. Sin is violence against God, and thus against human peace. All humanity, Jesus Christ excepted, is “by nature the children of wrath,” “children of disobedience,” and enemies of God (Eph. 2:2, 3; Rom. 5:10). Consequently, man has no enduring peace.

As enemies of God, we are left to ourselves, to others, and to Satan, “the god of this world,” to seek peace. Yet all of these oppose our peace. Our lusts are at war with our souls (I Peter 2:11). Others are in the same condition, “there is no peace saith my God to the wicked.” Satan “like a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8). There is no peace.

Isaiah announced to war-torn Israel that a king would be given to restore the nation and give it peace. Moreover, He would be known as the “the Prince of Peace.” When Jesus was born,

angels proclaimed, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14). Jesus is that King of Peace. What qualities must one possess to be King of Peace?

I. He must possess the power to make peace. The power to make peace is of two kinds.

One is the power to triumph so thoroughly that the enemy can never again rise to power. Christ will break his enemies “with a rod of iron [and] dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel” (Psalm 2:9). “The ungodly . . . are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish” (Psalm 1:4-6). Omnipotence equips Christ Jesus to defeat all of His foes. “All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity” (Isa. 40:17).

The other is the power to totally remake the enemy, to reprogram his thinking so that he ceases to be an enemy. Christ alone possesses this power. “After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.” “And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me” (Jer. 31:33; 32:40). “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh” (Ezek. 36:26). “When we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son” (Rom. 5:10). “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Cor. 5:17; see Acts 9:1-22 & Phil. 3:4-21).

This second power encompasses more than a remaking of enemies. It must also remove that which made them enemies. Christ did this. He is “the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). “Now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Heb. 9:26). “Now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh” (Eph. 2:13-17).

II. He must be a person capable of making peace. Christ exhibits this ability.

Christ is meek and lowly in heart, his yoke easy and his burden light (Matt. 7:28-30). He is unimpressed by human rank, wealth and status. “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34). He did not vie for power nor seek status among men. He “made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Phi. 2:7, 8). He was led “as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” (Isa. 53:7). Only one possessing these qualities, combined with omnipotence, can make true and permanent peace.

III. He must purpose to make peace. Jesus said, “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:17). “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). “And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one

shepherd” (John 10:16). “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out (John 6:37). “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).