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# Jesus: Prince of Peace



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Message by Pastor Cindy, Congregational Life Pastor  
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Scripture Passage Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:10-14  
Vancouver Chinese Baptist Church Vancouver, Canada



Often times the Christmas season is chaotic. It can be crazy—there's a rush to attend parties and special presentations and concerts. Coordinating family schedules becomes challenging. It's also a time when bills may mount as we increase our spending. Then there are the advertisements that run across our screens: "Only 16 days left of shopping. This sale, one day only!" This urgent ads increase holiday stress. As well family issues can arise at the holidays as extended families get together—you know the crazy uncle that always shows up late and talks too loud or drinks too much? Unresolved family conflict can confronts us at the holidays. Then there is a group of you who are students and you are stressed out by exams at this season, plus all your other holiday commitments.

Christmas is supposed to be a peaceful time, but for many it is a time of anxiety and stress. So I ask, where is the peace in Christmas?

Let's look at Isaiah 9:6—a prophetic verse—given some 700 years before the birth of Christ.

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, (say it with me): **Prince of Peace.**

**Jesus is called the Prince of Peace.**

Let's look at another well-known passage dealing with Christmas. An angel of the Lord is speaking to the shepherds in the fields. And this is what the angel said:

**Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:10-14**

The angel announces, "on earth peace to men" at the birth of Jesus. When I think of the birth of Jesus, I'm not envisioning a very peaceful thing. First, a virgin teenage girl becomes

pregnant. And she's pregnant by the Holy Spirit. That's a tough one to explain! So even at conception, Jesus' life is marred by a lack of peace. Then as we follow her journey, she's 9 months pregnant and she has to travel cross country to Bethlehem on a donkey. Joseph had to return to his home town in order to register as part of a census and Mary travels with him. It's my understanding that doctors don't advise a woman at 9 months to even fly on an airplane, much less travel by donkey. Can you imagine?! Then there is no room for her to stay—except a barn—so that's where Jesus was born. His first crib, a feed trough, in a barn. These set of circumstances do not add up to a peaceful entry.

Then when Jesus does enter planet earth, peace isn't necessarily the order of the day. It seemingly gets worse as King Herod is threatened and develops a plot to the kill the baby Jesus. And just to be sure that Jesus doesn't escape, he orders all children under the age of 2 to be murdered. All these innocent children are murdered.

Fast forward to today—I'm not seeing peace in our lives. I see a lot of anxiety and tension. Where's the peace? Where is the prince of peace during the regular, every day moments?

In marriages?—where 50% of marriage fail—and that stat is not much better in even Christian homes. In finances?—where we are spending and saving less than ever before. In our world? Turn on the news what do you see in our world?—countries at war, leaders misusing their positions, chemical weapons being developed. As an American I'm waiting for us to fall off the fiscal cliff! Even when you turn on your computers you have to deal with all these pop up ads that often can lead to anxiety about living. One of my favorites, after Superstorm Sandy, appeared with this headline: "37 things you should hoard. The grocery stores in Vancouver will run out of these things within 3 hours in the event of a severe storm." There is much turmoil. It's everywhere we turn.

I begin to wonder, if Jesus **IS** the Prince of Peace, did he fail? Ultimately the answer to this question depends on how you define peace.

I used to think that peace would be the thing that calms me, the thing that removes my anxiety. But when we study Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we discover it is so much more than that.

So who is Jesus? Among many other names, he is called the Prince of Peace. Let's look at

what Prince of Peace means as it refers to Jesus here.

In Hebrew the words:

**Sar**—the one who is in charge, the captain, the lord, the general, the chief. The Romans used the word *czar*, then it became Caesar—like Julius Ceasar, as the one who is in charge.

**Shalom**—a greeting given from one person to another which means rest, tranquility, wholeness, peace, completeness.

Jesus is the Sar Shalom. The captain of rest. He is the lord of tranquility; the chief of peace.

As long as we are under His authority, His lordship, we can have peace.

Does that mean we can do anything we want and still have peace? For instance, can a person charge up their credit card and spend more money than they make and expect to have peace? Of course not. Can a couple get in an argument, call each other names, embarrass their kids and still expect to have peace? No because they are doing something outside the Sar Shalom; outside of his authority.

Only when we are under the lordship of the Sar, the one who is in charge, can we experience his peace. Jesus is the Sar

Shalom. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The amazing thing is that when we are under the Sar Shalom, he can give us a peace that no one can understand. Even when we are in turmoil we can have this kind of peace. He can give you the peace that goes beyond understanding.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7**

Just as he gives us peace, He can also take that same peace away. He may remove the peace to get your attention—He may remove his peace when you left him in order to draw you back to him. Why would he do it? He is the Prince of Peace. He will do anything to get your attention. He is for your good.

What is this peace? It's not just a peaceful easy feeling. It is a completeness; a tranquility. It is rest. When you are under him you can experience his peace. But step outside and you will not have his peace. Jesus is the Sar Shalom.

What does that mean in our everyday life?

Two thoughts:

1. **He is the peace who comforts you.** Some of us have things that are going on where we are not experiencing peace. There is no internal peace.

Jesus say, "Peace I leave with you; **my peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27

Whose peace does he give to you? His peace. It's not our own peace. It's the peace of the one who is in charge of Shalom. (Illus: Albern, police officer, @ FBCSF; Last impressions ministry team.) It's not our peace, it's Jesus' peace.

But what if you say, "I don't have his peace?" Maybe you're trying to solve things and cope with life outside the Sar Shalom. You are trying to solve your problems on your own.

Phil 4:6-7—don't be anxious about anything. (Many of you are anxious about everything.) So when you don't have peace, you step under the Sar Shalom and present your requests to God. Hold up your stress, anxiety, problems to Him. Sometimes we must simply declare truth in the midst of our circumstances and allow the truth that transcends all understanding to take hold. (i.e. Jan Johnson--breath prayers—

invite a new reality. "Abba Father, I belong to You." "Good you are good." "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." "You work all things together for good.")

Some of you may also not have His peace because you do not know Jesus as the one who saves you.

2. **Jesus is also the one who saves you.** He is the peace that brings salvation.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, **we have peace with God** (say it with me: **We have peace with God**) through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

Since we've been justified, set right with God, by faith (not our good works), we have peace with God. Not because we are out here trying to do our own good works—but *through* the Sar Shalom.

We are sinners; we continually miss the mark. We are outside the only one who can give us real, genuine peace. We are separated from him. We are bent towards sin from birth.

But this is why the Christmas story is so important. Jesus who was born of a virgin did not have this sin nature; therefore he could be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. He could be the innocent Lamb of God. He

could give his life for us on the cross so that we, even in our sin, could be under him and receive *his* peace. We are under what Jesus did for us.

We cannot earn our way own way to peace. We have to take a step of faith and say, "I believe Jesus that you are enough."

**But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (Say it with me) For (Christ) himself is our peace . . . . Ephesians 2:13-14a**

Outside of him we have no promises. Inside of him we have the peace that passes all understanding. Jesus is the Sar Shalom. He is the Prince of Peace.