

Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6 Part - 4
by Chuck Jones

In this concluding article from Isaiah 9:6 I want to write about the “Prince of Peace.” It would be easy to simply take this name at face value and agree that Jesus is that prince. However, I don’t want to do that. I want to give this name the same consideration as the others. I think that it will help our understanding and appreciation of Jesus grow. It will also have an effect on how we conduct ourselves in life.

Prince

In Isaiah 9:6, the Hebrew word “sar” is translated for us as "prince." It is a masculine form of the word. It is used in reference to men. The feminine form is “sara.” Abraham’s wife’s name was changed from Sarai to Sarah (Genesis 17:15) which means princess. But it is the masculine form of the name that we are interested in here.

“Sar” as found in the Old Testament is translated in various ways. To be sure , the majority of occurrences is translated prince, but it is also translated in other ways. In each case it carries the idea of authority conferred because of competence, or a position inherited, as in the case of a prince. Here are some of the various ways “sar” is used in the Hebrew text. (Those words are in bold):

Exodus 1:11, “*Therefore they set **taskmasters** [sar] over them to afflict them with their burdens. They built storage cities for Pharaoh: Pithom and Raamses.*”

Exodus 18:21, “*Moreover you shall provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God: men of truth, hating unjust gain; and place such over them, to be **rulers** of thousands, **rulers** of hundreds, **rulers** of fifties, and **rulers** of tens.*”

1 Samuel 8:11,12 “*He said, This will be the manner of the king who shall reign over you: he will take your sons, and appoint them to him, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and they shall run before his chariots; and he will appoint them to him for **captains** of thousands, and **captains** of fifties; and [he will set some] to plow his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and the instruments of his chariots.*”

1 Kings 5:16, “*besides Solomon`s chief officers who were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, who **bore rule** over the people who labored in the work.*”

1 Chronicles 15:27, “*David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites who bore the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah **the master** of the song [with] the singers: and David had on him an ephod of linen.*”

1 Chronicles 24:5, *“Thus they were divided by lot, one group as another, for there were **officials** of the sanctuary and **officials** of the house of God, from the sons of Eleazar and from the sons of Ithamar.”*

In all these uses we can make application to Jesus of Nazareth. Basically, “sar” is a title given, in its various forms, to a person who has either been appointed or has inherited the position. Both of these certainly apply to Jesus. Here is more scriptural evidence:

“Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne” (Acts 2:30).

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36).

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth” (Philippians 2:9-10).

From this testimony we can see that Jesus has received his throne by way of inheritance, and by appointment from God. He has manifested competence to rule as prince.

Peace

The second part of this name tells us about the reign of this prince. The English word "peace" is translated from the Hebrew word “Shalem” or “Shalom.” This word is found in the name of the great city, Jerusalem. It means, “founded on peace” or “flowing in peace.” When we are urged to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, we can pray that its name would be fulfilled! "Shalom" is a state of being where there is an absence of strife of any kind. Whether that strife comes from those we live and work with (or drive on the freeway with), or strife of a personal nature. (That could be not having enough money in the check book or the turmoil over the presence of sin in our lives.)

Shalom, can be used as a greeting. It would be like asking, “How is it going?” Notice this in 2 Kings 4:26, *“Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' And she answered, 'It is well.'”* The “Is it well?” is the word “shalom.” The prophet Elisha wanted to know if all was well with the women. So the greeting “Shalom?” could be responded to in the affirmative, “Shalom!” if there were no problems.

Shalom carries the idea of safety, harmony, wellness, prosperity, health, and completeness. At the pinnacle, shalom describes the state of fulfillment as a result of God’s presence. The God of peace. The condition of shalom is something I think all people hunger for. In our war torn, violently ravaged world, peace is longed for. It is however, in our present time, illusive. Man cannot broker this kind of peace. God has, on behalf of men, appointed one to be “Sar-Shalom”,

Prince of Peace. This man is the one who will bring fulfillment, completeness, harmony, and safety to the whole earth. At that time he will be called the “Prince of Peace.”

Now, even in this present world with so many prideful and wicked people, we can still have peace. Here is how the Apostle Paul describes it in Ephesians Chapter 2:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace” (Verses 13-15).

Because of what Jesus has done, we can be at peace with God and each other. Whatever that “middle wall of separation” may have been between you and others, it has been broken down. This is especially true of believers. Race is no barrier, family feuds are no barrier, disagreements, or grudges cannot keep us from being in harmony with those who confess the Lordship of Jesus. He is our Prince of Peace.

Looking further in Ephesians Chapter 2, Paul says:

“and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near” (Verses 16-17).

Reconciliation and peace go together. How can we say we are reconciled to God when we are not reconciled with our brothers and sisters? Indeed we are called to make peace, as much as it is within our power to do so. *“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men”* (Romans 12:18).

The establishment of peace between God and men was made by our “Sar-shalom.” This peace and reconciliation we can enjoy now is because of God’s presence among us. Whatever it is that’s keeping you from being reconciled with another can be overcome. Go, with God being present, and confess that wall of separation as having no more influence in your life. The peace we have now between us is a reflection of what is to come.

Worldwide peace is not yet realized. Because of this Jesus said, *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword”* (Matthew 10:34). There is a great conflict between the kingdom of God and this present world. It is a conflict of ideologies and until our Prince of Peace returns there will continue to be conflict.

Now, however, those who belong to Jesus have his promise,

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

When Jesus returns all his enemies will be eradicated. Peace will reign! Until then we can be reconciled to each other and God by faith in what our “Sar-shalom” has done. If you are not at peace with someone, seek it now whether with God or people. That will show where your loyalty is.

Conclusion

We can rightly call Jesus of Nazareth "Wonderful Counselor" because he is wonderful and the word of God was in him. He is our "Mighty Champion" by winning a great victory for us and calling us to follow. The “tribe” he has founded is perpetual, rightly giving him the title "Everlasting Father." We know Jesus as the "Prince of Peace" as we live in peace with God and each other.

Let's all look forward to the day when we can praise him in this many faceted title. Let's show our anticipation by living in what he's given us now, as a preview of that glorious day. Amen.

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