

# The Prince of Peace

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

## Introduction

Good evening. My name is Isaiah, the son of Amoz. I was born around the middle of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC. I was about 25 years old when God called me to be a prophet to His people in Judah. This was in the year that King Uzziah died. That was when I exchanged the white linen clothes for this. Sackcloth is the standard clothing for a prophet. You see, our message wasn't usually a happy one. We had to call our people out on their sins. And believe me, Israel had plenty of sins to be called out on. I served at a time when Assyria was in power and was constantly threatening Judah. Just a few years into my ministry they conquered Israel, the Northern Kingdom. But I didn't come to talk about ancient history. I came to talk about one specific prophecy, from the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of my book.

*For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*Isaiah 9:6*

## The Prince of Peace

This is a messianic prophecy; it points to the Messiah. There is so much here we could talk about but I am going to focus on one name for the Messiah, "Prince of Peace." There are two ways to look at the Messiah. He is a conquering King, in the line of David and He is the Suffering Servant. "Prince of Peace" brings these two together. To understand this, you must understand what "peace" is.

## Understanding Peace

The Hebrew word for peace is *shalom*. And shalom is not what most people in the West think of when they think of peace. It is not a calm quietness. It is more like "the possession of adequate resources." If you have everything you need, you can face whatever life dishes out with calm and serenity. That's the kind of peace the Messiah is prince of. Another thing to understand is the relationship between peace and righteousness.

## Peace and Righteousness

*And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever (Isaiah 32:17).* Righteousness yields peace. Peace is having what you need. What is the one thing that everyone needs? Forgiveness. *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned – everyone – to his own way (Isaiah 53:6).* Sin makes us all enemies of God. We can't get rid of our sin, so we all need forgiveness. I think back to my call. When I saw God high and lifted up, I was filled with fear and cried out, "*Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!*" (*Isaiah 65*). As a man of sin in the presence of God, I should have been struck dead. Then a seraph touched my mouth with a coal from the altar and said, "*Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for*" (*Isaiah 6:7*). Then the Lord said, "*Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?*" and I immediately replied, "*Here I am! Send me*" (*v. 8*). Once I was forgiven, I had everything I needed. I could do anything God asked me to do. And believe me, what He had for me to do wasn't going to be easy.

## **Peace with God**

When He forgives us, the Messiah clothes us with His righteousness. That righteousness gives us peace, peace with God. And that's what it takes to get by in this world. As long as sin separates us from God, it keeps us off balance. Life gets out of whack and it's a struggle. Every little stumbling block becomes a mountain. When we have peace with God we can do anything. Nothing is too hard. We have confidence to face the world in serenity. We are at peace. *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God (Isaiah 41:10).*

## **Peace with Man**

When we have this peace from God, He gives us the ministry of reconciliation. The job of passing His peace on to others. This doesn't mean we are to get along with everyone. That would be "peace at any cost." Reconciliation comes when we bring the Gospel to others and they receive forgiveness of sins in the cross of Jesus Christ. He is the Prince of Peace. He is our Peace. He gives us peace.

## **Peace Is a Gift**

Peace is a gift. We receive it on faith. Christ paid the price for our sins on the cross. *He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed (Isaiah 53:5).* Receive His forgiveness and peace today, as we celebrate His birth.

*And the peace of God,  
Which surpasses all understanding,  
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*