



Jesus, Prince of peace

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Dear friends,

*You will keep in **perfect peace** all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! (Isaiah 26:3). Perfect peace, on earth, if you trust Him and are focused on Him!? 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** (Isaiah 9:6). In a world filled with war and violence, it's difficult to see how Jesus the Messiah could be the all-powerful God that acts in human history and be the embodiment of peace. But physical safety and political harmony don't necessarily reflect the kind of peace He's talking about: **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).***

In our sinful state, we are enemies with God (Romans 5:10. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).* Because of Christ's sacrifice, we are restored to a relationship of peace with God (Romans 5:1). **This is the deep, abiding peace** between our hearts and our Creator that cannot be taken away (John 10:27-28) **and the ultimate fulfillment of Christ's work as "Prince of Peace"**. It is a spiritual work-out.

Note that peace doesn't mean easy. Jesus never promised easy; He only promised help. In fact, He told us to expect tribulation (John 16:33) and trials (James 1:2). But He also said that if we called on Him, He would give us the "**peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension**" (Philippians 4:6-7). No matter what hardships we are faced with, we can ask for a peace that comes from the powerful love of God that is **not dependent on our own strength or the situation around us**.

Believe in the perfection of the finished work of Jesus, the Messiah!

Isaiah leaves us no doubt: The Child born to us, 2000 years ago is the ultimate Prince of Peace. No one who has ever lived has been misunderstood more than the young teacher who happened to be born, not by preference but by promise, through the line of the Old Testament patriarch Abraham – Jesus the Christ, the Messiah. Misunderstanding Jesus has caused Muslims to reject Him, Hindus to suspect Him, Buddhists to ignore Him, atheists to hate Him, and agnostics to deny Him.

Many of the founders of the different world views as Pythagoras in Greece, Buddha and Mahavira in India, Zarathustra in Persia, Confucius and Lao-tse (Taoism) in China, **shifted their attention from the shared happiness (Ubuntu principle!) on earth to individual (more Western) happiness in the heavenly realms**. The earth is dismissed as misleading, now revolves around the happiness of the individual soul that beholds the heavenly truth. One people remains stubbornly hoping for earthly happiness for all peoples: **Israel continues to look for salvation in the here and now, that will come with the coming of the Messiah**. Jesus is also living from this perspective. Not for nothing at His birth the angels sing "**Peace on Earth**". Christianity explains later, however - under the influence of the ancient Greeks and Church Father Augustine - yet the emphasis on individual salvation in the hereafter.

The Jewish, who (even) had physical contact with Jesus, in fact **did understand that the purpose of the Kingdom was for this earth**:⁶ *So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" (Acts 1:6).* The Jews were hoping to be released from the Roman suppressors, to receive peace on earth, however they missed the essence that the **solution was in an invisible (spiritual) Kingdom** and therefore many Jews missed the Kingdom: *But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness (this is not the final punishment, but outside the Kingdom), where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Matthew 8:12). For sure no one could stop the Kingdom with its Messiah and Prince of Peace, and for that reason the Kingdom has been taken away from the Jewish and given to the gentiles as written: *The*

stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? ⁴³ "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it (Matthew 21:42-43).

But it just may be those who claim to represent Him the most – **Christians** – who have in fact (partly) misunderstood and , therefore, **misrepresented Him the most.**

- Some Christians have misunderstood Him as the founder of a religion and have transformed His teachings and His methods into customs and His activities into rituals: "*But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in (Matthew 23:13).* See also Matthew 5:20, 15:1-3, 15:6b, 21:31b).
- Many Christians have also reduced His message to nothing more than an **escapist plan for getting to heaven** and His promises as a mere fire insurance policy for escaping the pains of a tormenting hell. As we have seen, this misinterpretation is coming from the Greek culture and Church Father Augustine. But my dear friends, **Jesus is much more than our Saviour** who overthrew death. **He is also our Deliverer, Prince of Peace, Messiah and King** (*And the government will be upon His shoulder!*)! Don't forget: **With His first coming Jesus is King of a Kingdom here on earth** (Matthew 12:28), **until His second coming!!** The Kingdom is meant to start here on earth. **With His second coming, after this earthly period Jesus will hand over the Kingdom to His Father** (1 Corinthians 15:24), Jesus job is done than!

Final word.

Please do not underestimate the work of Jesus with His first coming and make Him unintended to a caricature. Jesus, with His first coming is the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, Who brought peace within the walls of Jerusalem (Psalm 122): *Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, **your King** is coming to you (Matthew 21:5), Hosanna to the Son of David! (Matthew 21:9). All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet Zechariah (Matthew 21:4). For He (Christ) Himself is our peace (Ephesians 2:14). He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne (Acts 2:30), the throne of David (Acts 2:34).*

Please have a look with me to this beautiful passage, the announcement of "**a Ruler from Bethlehem**", or "**the coming Messiah**": *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past. ³ The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. ⁴ And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. **Then his people will live there undisturbed**, for he will be highly honored around the world. ⁵ **And He will be the source of peace** (Micah 5:2-5). Amazing, isn't it: **The solution for Israel** from that time forward (until the woman in labor (Maria) gives birth, then his people will live there undisturbed). **A spiritual solution, implemented with Jesus first coming!***

There is only **one solution for the Jews and the gentiles:** ¹¹ *Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. ¹² In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. ¹³ But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ **For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people** when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. ¹⁵ He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made*

peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups.¹⁶ Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.¹⁷ **He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near.**¹⁸ Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us (Ephesians 2:11-18).

Still some are postponing this peace, which is spiritual and waiting for physical peace on earth (as the Jews) before Jesus second coming, referring to **'the thousand years of peace'** as written in Revelation 20:1-6. However this is not about peace, but about reigning. The word 'peace' is not in there, but **shall reign with Him a thousand years**. Let's have a look on the word "reign" in Revelation 20:6 in the Greek Bible: βασιλεύω,ν {bas-il-yoo'-o}, to be king, to exercise kingly power, to reign. This is the same word as the word "Kingdom" in Matthew 12:28: βασιλεία,ν {bas-il-i'-ah}, royal power, kingship, dominion, rule. **But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you** (Matthew 12:28). Cool he! So, **and shall reign with Him a thousand years** means **and shall Kingdom with Him a thousand years**. During this Kingdom period, the whole NT period, satan is securely chained: *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day* (Jude 1:6). *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment* (2 Peter 2:4). To be more specific: **and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.** (Revelation 20:3). Satan, chained in his own dominion during the whole NT period means **peace on earth**, a spiritual solution: *We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one* (1 John 5:19). Only those, the world around us, those who didn't bow for Jesus the Christ, are under control of the evil one, but we, we have a save and peaceful place, a spiritual solution for our souls, while living here on earth in our weak physical container, our bodies: *For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus* (Ephesians 2:6).

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign (bas-il-i'-ah, Kingdom) in life through the One, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17). **And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign (bas-il-i'-ah, Kingdom) on the earth.** (Revelation 5:10).

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 (John 16:33). *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).*

Shalom!

Yours in His service,
Kees
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