

## His Name Will Be Called Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9.6

*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight.* Those lyrics from “O Little Town of Bethlehem” capture something we all long for at Christmas: In a world filled with terrorist attacks and rumors of war, our hopes and fears meet in a word: Peace. Is it possible in our lives?

- Earthly princes, born in splendor, fall far short of this
- Jesus Christ, born in poverty, can bring lasting peace?
- The chasm of separation between God and man
- Are you reconciled with God? Do you know His peace?



1. Peace can be the result of many things: The presence of tranquility, security, love, acceptance, or harmony...or the absence of conflict, anxiety, hatred, discord, or abuse. At any given time in our lives, we may have circumstances that give us peace, and others that raise our blood pressure! What uncertainties, relationships, or worries in your life steal your peace? Why? How do you deal with these situations? As Dr. Phil would say, “How’s that working for you?”
2. One big cause for a lack of peace is fear or uncertainty. In the short term, we may have financial questions, fears of being alone, or fear of the unknown. Can knowing God make a difference? Read Isaiah 26.3-4. Israel was facing the terrifying Assyrian army. Why and how did Isaiah say they could find peace? What does it mean to have a mind that is steadfast and trusting in God? Can thinking about the right things actually give us ‘peace’? (See Phil. 4.8-9!)
3. In the long term, a lack of peace may be called for. In fact, it can be critical for our eternal life. C. S. Lewis wrote, “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” How do we find peace in the expectation of life after death? What steals this peace? How can we be assured of where we will spend eternity? Can we have ‘peace’ with God? Read Romans 5.1.
4. While having peace with God and knowing that our eternal future is secure in heaven is wonderful (John 14.2-3; 2 Cor. 5.1), this doesn’t mean we will never experience times of anxiety or unrest. Read John 16.33: What did Jesus promise His disciples? At the same time, what did He want them to have? How could they have peace at the same time they had tribulation? What knowledge can comfort us in these times (see 1 Thess. 4.13-18; 5.9-11)? What recourse do we have in life’s most trying circumstances? How can we be ‘anxious for nothing’? See Phil. 4.6-7!