

July 25, 2020

Hello Brethren,

We received a couple of letters this week from people who wanted to know why we don't see peace on earth today. One made reference to Isaiah 9:6. In this verse Isaiah was inspired to record several of the titles or descriptors for Jesus Christ. One of them is Prince of Peace. The writer asked how that could be when we see such a dearth of peace today. He wanted to know how this verse could be true, and if it is, when we can expect to see peace.

Good questions, and one that I suspect a lot of people are asking. The world is in a state of turmoil from multiple sources and for multiple reasons – but the result is anything but peace! These people see the Bible describe something they long for but don't have. What was needed was a little perspective to understand the verse.

One of the things we pointed out was that the same verse stated that the government would be on His shoulders. Verse 7 says that the increase of His government and peace will never end. His government is the Kingdom of God, and this is speaking of the time when Jesus Christ will shoulder the governmental authority on earth.

It doesn't take much perceptiveness to look around and understand that clearly hasn't happened yet! The Messiah must return to the earth first to become the King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14; 19:16), and establish His government over all human governments. Then a change will come.

Isaiah 2 tells us that at that time, after the nations are rebuked, which means given strong correction, they will finally be willing to submit to Him, and begin to live in a manner that will bring real peace. They will take their implements of war, and fashion them into tools for working, producing food and serving others. In big farm country you may see those huge articulating tractors capable of pulling massive spring plows, drills and cultivators. I've wondered how large a piece of equipment an Abrams tank could pull...

Peace on a worldwide scale is only possible after there is a great change with all people. The minds of men must be changed, or else the selfishly driven words and actions that take away peace from families, cities and nations will only continue and escalate.

But we also had to point out to the writers that between now and the return of Christ, the earth is going to see a lot more war, and much less peace. The Bible tells us that multiple millions of people are going to be killed by war, famine and disease. The massive stockpiles of weapons men have built will be unleashed – to the point described in Matthew 24:21-22 where it says without God stepping in to stop it, we would destroy all life on earth, and probably make the planet uninhabitable to life as we know it.

So we see it is going to have to get worse before it can get any better – sadly a lot worse. What we are seeing today is at most the set-up, paving the way for much greater problems, struggles

and fighting. Our current situation isn't the main event. I'm afraid it is little more than the announcement of the warm-up band before the main event takes the stage.

God's people need to remain centered and focused in our faith. We can't allow the chaos around us to distract us from continuing to use the major spiritual tools of faith: prayer, fasting Bible study and meditation.

We long for the appearing of the Prince of Peace, and we are assured He is coming. We don't know how long, and we don't know how much we will have to witness and endure before He does. We only know that He promised to return, and He'll fulfill that promise. And when He does, the increase of His government and peace will know no end!

Tomorrow my family and I will be in Van Buren for morning services, and then we'll travel up to Bentonville for afternoon services. I wish each of you a very good Sabbath.

Best regards,

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