



The term "Sar Shalom" or as we read it, "Prince of Peace" is found in Isaiah 9:6, *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, **the Prince of Peace.**"*

As we all are aware of, this scripture in Isaiah is prophetically speaking of the coming Messiah. All the titles in this verse refer to and identifies the Messiah as the divine ruler who brings total understanding of who our God is and who establishes ultimate reconciliation, spiritual wholeness, and eternal "oneness" to the relationship between God and man.

We all know that Messiah is of course, the Son of God, Jesus. However, I would like to key in on, for this discussion, the aspect that Jesus is the "Prince of Peace" and discuss a little about what that actually means and what it is saying to us, as believers in Jesus.

We must fully grasp and understand that the concept of true peace the way that the scriptures want us to understand it, starts with the fact that God, the Father is known as "Yahweh Shalom." Only God is the fullness of our peace. In Judges 6:12-27, Gideon builds an altar and names it "Yahweh-Shalom," meaning "Yahweh is our Peace," revealing to us that ultimate wholeness and true peace (oneness with God) only comes directly from God Himself.

Gideon did not want to take on the mission that God called him to. But God... He revealed Himself to Gideon. He gave Gideon the courage to be the person who God, the Father called him to be. Gideon succeeded in the task presented to him. God will give you the "inner peace" you need because **He is the peace that passes all understanding.** He is Yahweh-Shalom.

The term "Prince of Peace" as stated earlier comes from the Hebrew term, "Sar Shalom." Let us break this term down so that we can get a clearer grasp of what we are hearing Isaiah tell us in this scripture. The term "sar" is a Hebrew word which can be translated to different words in our English language. It means "a prince, a ruler, leader, captain, or commander." It implies royal authority and **active** governance, rather than just a title.

Why, we might ask, is the Messiah referred to as the “Prince of Peace” and not the “King of Peace?” Given that the term and aspects for the Messiah is often depicted in Old Testament as a King (2Samuel 7; Psalm 2; 72) it seems odd here that He is to be “demoted” to a mere “prince.” Actually, it is much different than we may think.

We must understand that the term “prince” we use today in our western culture and language is not the same as the term “prince” in the eastern cultures. The function of a “prince” in eastern cultures is actually greater than the function of a “king.” In the eastern culture a “king” is the overseer and ruler of a city.

The term “prince” in the eastern culture refers to the overseer of a region that has many cities. Therefore, in understanding the use of the term “prince” as used in this scripture, it is referring to one who is ruler over all the “kings” of all the cities within that realm. We must remember that it is different than our “western” way of looking at things.

In understanding that aspect, we can get a better grasp of what Isaiah is prophesying. This “Prince of Peace” is greater than any and all kings and all leaders that may be on this earth. That is why we read that Jesus is the King (capital K) of all kings (lower case k)... and Jesus is the Lord (capital L) of all lords (lower case l). (1Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14) Jesus is the “Prince” who is over every leader of every nation who was, who are now and who ever will be on this earth. He is the **P**rince, the **K**ing and the **L**ord over all, on earth and under the earth.

The term “shalom” is the Hebrew word for “peace.” We have all heard of that word. However, there is a deeper meaning and understanding that we need to grasp when we speak of or use the word “shalom” (peace) in reference to the Father and to Jesus. The Hebrew word “shalom” means much more than just a greeting or the absence of conflict. It signifies completeness, soundness, welfare, flourishing, and total well-being.

Instead of just describing the absence of conflict or war, shalom (peace) describes a state where everything is in its right place, functioning as God designed it, with nothing broken and nothing missing. It comes from the root Hebrew verb “shalem,” which means to be complete, finished, or safe. There is a “oneness” of all who are in that realm. They described it as “a stone with no cracks or a wall with no missing bricks.” It is whole and complete. It is “one.”

This term for peace, “shalom,” also refers to an inner sense of rest, trust, and mental tranquility. It refers to living in harmony, fairness, and love with your neighbors. The Bible is clear when it tells us that we are to love our neighbors and others, as we love our selves. That is the “peace” of God that Jesus gives His people to live in and live by. It also has an aspect in society, as it refers to justice, safety and the desire for an entire community or nation to succeed and flourish as one with absolutely no divisions.

When people say "shalom" to one another, they are not just saying "hello" or "goodbye," they are speaking a blessing over a person's entire life and well-being. That is the way a true believer in Jesus should be thinking. The title "Prince of Peace" therefore, means that the Messiah, Jesus, is the royal Son of God who brings “shalom”—total and complete wholeness and “oneness” between God and all those who accept what Jesus did for them on the cross.

We see the word “peace” used in the New Testament. That word comes from the Greek word “eirene.” “Eirene” (pronounced eirēnē or i-ray'-nay) refers to similar aspects as the Hebrew word. It means “unity, being as one and in one accord.” It refers to a state of national and personal tranquility; an exemption from the rage and havoc of war; harmony, concord; security, safety, prosperity. Peace makes and keeps things safe and prosperous for all.

This “peace” that we now have in and through Jesus, is reinforced as we read that there will be no end to the peace that Jesus brings. Isaiah 9:7 continues by saying, *“He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”* Yes, God will accomplish this. He did...through Jesus!!!

This is true peace. It is based on justice, God’s justice, and righteousness, the ability to stand before God and be in His presence. This is only accomplished in and through Jesus. This is what true peace is. The world or anyone could never bring forth this peace on their own.

This is God’s peace. Not just an end of physical war that ravages nations and men but it is the end of the “war” between a sinful, ruthless individual and the living God. Jesus and the Holy Spirit now brings us and gives us true peace, oneness with our God, that surpasses all understanding.

According to Matthew Henry's commentary he writes, "The exact agreement of this prophecy (*Isaiah 9:6,7 and others in the Old Testament that point to Jesus*) with the doctrine (*teachings*) of the New Testament, shows (*proves*) that the Jewish prophets and the Christian apostles (*the writers*) had the same (*exact*) view of the person and salvation of the Messiah (*Jesus*)."

– *Those words in italicized and in parenthesis were added by this writer.*

In other words the entire Bible, Old and New Testament are in complete agreement concerning how God's true peace, salvation and oneness with God, will come, how it did come and then how it is lived out by the believer, today. True peace can be expressed in two words "salvation" and "oneness." God, the Father, through Jesus saved us from eternal damnation and death and now gave all those who truly believe in Jesus, eternal life. Salvation gives us oneness with our God which is that true peace that the Bible is always referring to.

Peace between us and God: "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" Jesus said that once we have been reconciled to God through our turning to Him and by His blood that was shed, as well as His love and forgiveness, we have have eternal peace with our Heavenly Father.

We are no longer enemies, but now we are His friends. Yes, we are friends of God. But... even more than that. We are His sons and daughters. And...even more than that. We are the Bride of Christ who will spend forever and ever in eternity, together with our God!!!

We are to bring the "peace" that we now have in and through Jesus, to anyone and everyone we can while we are still upon this earth. Our desire must be that we want to see all come into that oneness, that oneness of peace, that oneness of being in relationship with the Living God, to be experienced by all others.

Natural or physical safety or even political harmony does not reflect or even come close to the kind of peace that the scriptures are referring to. Yes, there are times that we can experience the absence of war and violence. However, that is not the "peace" that the scriptures are referring to. Scriptural peace, the peace that God's Word is referring to, is that of being set at one again with God. That is the essence of what salvation truly is-peace with God.

How does Jesus bring that “peace” with our God? The fullness of the scriptures show us.

The Fall Broke Man’s Peace, there “oneness” with God as lost:

- Adam and Eve's sin disrupted the original shalom/peace between humanity and God.
- Because of their sin, they were destined to die in their sin. But God...
- His love for His creation gave them and all of us that were to come a second chance at a relationship with the Living God.
- God introduced a temporary way for man to atone for sin – through sacrifices.

God instituted the sacrificial system for man’s atonement:

- The Old Covenant required blood sacrifices, often involving animals, to cover sin.
- However, we see, and this is very important to grasp, **God Himself provided the sacrifices, at the important times in the scriptures to show us that He would ultimately provide the only sacrifice that would be totally accepted by Him:**
 - Abraham and Isaac: When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, God provided a ram who was “caught in the thicket,” instead (Genesis 22).
 - The Passover in Egypt: God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb and place its blood on their doorposts. The destroying angel “passed over” their homes. This pointed to the day that Jesus would cover all of man’s sin.

All of these sacrifices foreshadowed the “final sacrifice” provided by the Son of God, Jesus.

- John the Baptist identified Jesus as “*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29).
- Jesus, was sinless and spotless He fulfilled the role of the perfect once-for-all sacrifice.
- Whoever trusts in Jesus receives peace (oneness in relationship) with God. We receive complete forgiveness and are “set at one again” with Him.

New Testament Assurance of Peace:

- Romans 5:1 – “*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”
- Colossians 1:20 – “*...making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*”
- Sacrifices are no longer needed for man to be accepted by God. Only through faith in Jesus are we accepted into His family. We are seen by God as “righteous” all because of Jesus’ finished work on the cross.

True, scriptural peace is the spiritual oneness brought about by an individual's restored relationship with God. It is because of the sacrifice that Jesus took on our behalf when He went on the cross, we are restored to a relationship of peace and oneness with God.

This is the deep, abiding peace between our hearts and our Creator that cannot be taken away (John 10:27–28). It is the ultimate fulfillment of Jesus' work as the "Prince of Peace." The relationship between God and man has been attained. We do nothing to earn our spiritual peace with God. It only comes through the acceptance of Jesus as our Savior and then we also choose to allow Him to be our Lord to lead us throughout our life.

The Word also tells us that if we call on the name of the Lord, Jesus, He would give us the peace of God *"...which passes all understanding."* (Philippians 4:6–7) Only Jesus gives us the God kind of peace that the Word truly refers to. Will we fully understand it? I do not know.

In John 14:27, Jesus told His disciples, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* Many people talk about "peace" as if it is something that they can muster up for themselves. That is the kind of peace the world gives. It is not the true peace of God!!! Hey, things do not always go our way. Does that mean we do not have or we can not have true peace? Of course not!!!

True peace is being in relationship with the living God, through Jesus. Yes, this is true peace; "oneness with the living God." Paul tells us this in total confidence as he writes in Philippians 4:6,7 - *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**"*

One day, those who believe in Jesus and are His people, the Bride of Jesus our Savior and Lord, will hear the words that John heard in Revelation 21:3 - *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."*

Now that is true peace!!! Peace with God!!! Given to us by Sar Shalom, the Prince of Peace!!!