



THE PEACE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning of time, man dwelt with God in peace. When man rebelled against His Creator, the world suffered the loss of peace. Consequently, the hearts of men have been tormented throughout the ages. Jesus said that in the days preceding His coming there would be distress and perplexity on the earth . . . *men's hearts failing them from fear* [exceeding terror], *and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth* (Luke 21:25, 26). In these last days, more than ever, people are longing for inner tranquility. Man will pay, fight and even kill for a false sense of peace from the world, but the end result is despair.

Peace is not a condition acquired through outward circumstances. It is not a shallow emotion that is based on feelings. It is not gained through the absence of trouble. Though all may be well on the outside, the mind can be a raging storm. Peace is an inward stillness in the midst of chaos. It is born and sustained in the depth of the soul that is in constant fellowship with the Triune God.¹

THEME SCRIPTURE

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You (Isaiah 26:3).

¹ Triune God: the three Persons of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (John 14:20, 27).

SECTION I – Definitions

1. What does *peace* mean to you? _____

Dictionary Definition

Webster's New World dictionary defines *peace* as follows: freedom from war, law and order, state of mutual harmony, concord, serenity, calm or quiet; pacification, brotherhood, love, tranquility.

Biblical Definitions

The Hebrew definition for God's *peace* is *shalom* safe: well, happy, friendly.

The Greek word for peace is *eirene* to join: peace, one, quietness, rest.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that describe God's peace. UNDERLINE the word or phrase that speaks of God's peace or gives man peace.

Psalms 119:165	<i>Great peace have those who love Your Law, and nothing causes them to stumble.</i>
Isaiah 48:18a	<i>Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river.</i>
John 14:27	<i>Peace I [Jesus] 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.</i>
John 16:33	<i>These things I [Jesus] 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.</i>
Romans 5:1	<i>Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.</i>
Romans 14:17	<i>For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.</i>
Galatians 5:22, 23a	<i>. . . the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.</i>

Ephesians 2:14 *For He [Jesus] Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.*

Philippians 4:6, 7 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

3. What did you learn about God's peace from these Scriptures? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned about God's peace impacted you? How will you apply what you have learned to your life?

SECTION II – Biblical Illustrations of God's Peace

Jesus Calms the Sea

READ Mark 4:35-41.

1. What was Jesus' command to the disciples (vv. 35, 36)? _____
- _____
- How did they respond? _____
- _____
2. Why were the disciples afraid (vv. 37, 38)? _____
- _____
- _____

What was Jesus doing? _____

What did they say to Him? _____

3. What did Jesus do and say that caused a great calm (v. 39)? _____

_____ ²

What did the wind and sea do? _____

4. What did Jesus' questions reveal to them about their hearts (v. 40)? _____

5. In the midst of their fear, what did they declare with one another (v. 41)? _____

When God commands you to do something, trust and obey Him. He will carry you through in peace.

PERSONAL

When have you feared exceedingly? How did God meet you and provide His peace in the midst of your personal storm?

Peace to the Demoniac of Gadara

READ Mark 5:1-20.

1. DESCRIBE the condition of the demon-possessed man (vv. 1-5). _____

² Peace – Greek *siopao* silence: hush, involuntary muteness, holds one's peace.

2. What did the man do and say when he saw Jesus (vv. 6, 7)? _____

By what title did the demoniac address Jesus? _____

What did the demoniac implore Jesus not to do? _____

3. Jesus knowing who was speaking through the man, what was His command (vv. 8, 9)? _____

Jesus asked the unclean spirit his name. What was his answer? _____

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4. Jesus took authority over the demons. How is the limited power of demons clearly demonstrated (vv. 10-13)? _____

5. In what state did the people find the restored man? What did the people do (vv. 14, 15)? _____

The people of the region were more afraid of the One who cast out the demons than they had been of the demoniac.

³ Legion: a Roman army unit consisting of 3,000 to 6,000 men.

6. The restored demoniac desired to stay with Jesus. What did Jesus ask him to do instead (vv. 18, 19)?

Where did the man go? What did he do? How did it affect others? _____

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Through these examples we can see God's authority over all creation and His limitless ability to bring about Sovereign peace regardless of the circumstance.

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God's Peace

1. LOOK-UP the following Scriptures, and WRITE what they say concerning the peace of God.

Isaiah 9:6, 7 _____
Example: Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His peace, the zeal of the Lord will perform it.

Psalms 29:11 _____

John 14:27 _____

Romans 5:1 _____

I Corinthians 14:33 _____

Colossians 1:20 _____

⁴ Decapolis: a ten-city region situated east of Galilee which had an estimated population of 15,000.

2. From the following Scriptures, what are you called to do in response to the Holy Spirit⁵ in order to receive God's peace?

Job 22:21 Example: *acquaint yourself with God.*

Psalms 119:165 _____

Isaiah 48:18 _____

Matthew 11:28-30 _____

Philippians 4:6-9 _____

Colossians 3:15 _____

James 3:18 _____

PERSONAL

Think of a situation, either past or present, where you were troubled and unable to comprehend what the Lord was doing.

Briefly DESCRIBE the situation. _____

⁵ Holy Spirit: the third Person of the Trinity who comes along side to lead and guide us into all truth.

How did you react, or are you reacting, to your circumstances? _____

What things have you learned about God's peace that you can apply to your situation, or use to encourage someone else?

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Isaiah 26:3).

*I will both lie down in peace, and sleep;
for You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.*

Psalm 4:8

NOTES _____

[illegible]

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All Scripture found in this study is from the New King James Bible unless noted otherwise.

Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name, and His Word have been capitalized.

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