

“The Prince of Peace” // Hope Has a Name, Message #3 // Isaiah 9:6

Welcome:

Hello Church, Feliz Navidad a todos! ☺

- My name is Raudel and,

Introduction:

We are in a Christmas series where we are looking **closely** to the promise God made about descending to save the humanity He created yet rebelled against Him. We are looking at the promise word by word:

- That promise is found in Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6, “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, Counsellor, The mighty God, (love how the KJV puts an emphasis on “The...”) The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6 KJV

Today we are going to **hone in** on the part of the prophecy where God calls Jesus **The Prince of Peace**, and I couldn't help to notice **how fond** our culture still is of this concept of Prince and princesses... it's amazing.

- In fact, many of the top games in the App Store have to do with Kingdoms, and dominion, the concept of a Prince, thrones, and a Ruler (games like Clash of Clans / Clash Royale, & many others I keep seeing my kids play)
- Also, SO many of our fairy tales and kid's movies are built around these big ideas of Prince and Princess...
- We see it in our little ones, they love plastic swords and like a prince put a crown on, get that sword, and try to slay bad guys to ensure peace and prosperity. And how about little girls dressing up as a princess, the shoes, the crown, the tiara, pretending to have control, stability, and dominion over all... they love it....
- **This idea of Prince is not so foreign to us....**
- ...even as adults, we hear of **Prince Harry dating an American girl** and we get all excited (this girl has a strong African heritage and some Latin flavor: “*about time somebody added some fun & flavor 2 that boring castle ☺*”);
- ...and we can't wait for that wedding... the world is gonna stop when they play that royal wedding on TV! Because you see there's something in us, deep down, as the image bearers of God, that loves the themes of kingdom and marriage. They awaken hope in us in a way that nothing else does. And the reason for that is this: That's the story of the Bible. The story of the Bible is that Jesus Christ **The Prince of Peace** came into human history to take for himself a bride called the church, you and I. To take us out of our spiritual poverty and mortal end, to an everlasting feast and party with Him forever. **chief end of man is to W.G. & enjoy GOD forever**
- And This Prince, not only came once to destroy Sin and death, but is coming again to put the final blow on it....

Isaiah 9 says that Jesus is The Prince of Peace; let's first look at Jesus as Prince, then we'll look at Jesus as Peace, and finally or even throughout I hope you see Jesus as The Prince of Peace of your life:

I know the concept of Jesus as the Prince over you may initially sound offensive to us and to our egos 'cause we wanna be Kings of our lives, but the reality is that there is only one capable Counselor, mighty God, and everlasting Father, that's King. Humanity's problem has always being a Kingship and Lordship problem as we hate to submit to the fact that we are lousy kings of this world and of our lives.... But just look at it, the world is a mess, we have desired “world peace” forever, and we cannot deliver it; seems to get worst every year, not better. It is good news that Jesus **IS Prince**, I'm not talking about some figurehead that just sits around in fancy clothes pretending to rule; I'm talking about someone with real power, in fact almighty God!

- Jesus stands in the solitude **and sufficiency** of Himself / He is the wellspring of all power and wisdom / He does not need us / your opinion of Him will not affect Him at all / and the miracle is He loves us

The reason the Kingdom of God is called the Kingdom of God is because a kingdom is the extent of the rule of a king.

- It was prophesied in Genesis 49:10 that Jesus would rule with a King's scepter; true Kingship authority.
- Here is in Isaiah He is called The Prince of peace
- In John 12:14–15 we read of Jesus as a humble King, with Jesus riding on a donkey into Jerusalem. That just blows my mind, what King do you know that is humble? “Would you really say that any of our current world leaders or national leaders are characterized by humility?” None but Jesus!

- When His enemies pressed a crown of thorns into His head, they were in fact revealing the truth. Of course, He deserved a crown of gold 'cause He obeyed God 100%, yet He decided to take my thorns, **but still, He was crowned.**
- And, though Pilate wrote up a note for Jesus as a Spirit of mocking that hung above Jesus as He was crucified; **it still read, "King" on it!**
- Following His resurrection and ascension to Heaven, Jesus is revealed throughout Revelation to be seated upon a throne, ruling and reigning as sovereign Lord **over all** creation, including all peoples, times, and places. **The revelation of Jesus seated upon His throne appears no less than 45 times in Revelation.**
- **By placing the throne of Jesus Christ at the center of creation and history, God is displacing humanity from the position we normally occupy but is not ours** (there is nothing as bad as trying to do and be someone you are not design to be... listen: I know I look like a big tractor tire, and I know that when I bend down, I roll... but I am incapable of serving in that capacity, it will kill me to take the place of a car tire... is not my design... well- **it too will kill you to be king of your life...**); in other words, with the promise of Jesus here in Isaiah 9, **God is correcting the order & position of our worship from ourselves & creation, to someone that it's actually capable of ruling with justice and love, He reverses the object of our worship to one that WILL actually satisfy us, namely The Prince of Peace, JESUS.**
- (You see, you and I have bought the lie that worshipping that which exalts ourselves will satisfy us; but reality is that we are left with more thirst... ["You and I, deep down, think that some-thing is going to fix our lives. We think that if we just get married / or just have that child / or just get that promotion / or just get out of this bad marriage / or whatever, that then we'll be happy. And then, what happens? Either we don't get it (and we're miserable). Or we do get it, and it doesn't satisfy —looks so promising, but when you take a bite, it's empty."])
- **But as we humble ourselves to our desperate need of God, it is there in peace with God through The Prince of Peace that we finally arrive, and we finally feel complete, and whole, and tranquil, and satisfied...**
- In Christ, there is no more pretending / no more running / no more chasing / no more having to keep an image that's a lie – salvation is not a reward for the righteous but a gift for the guilty, in Christ you no longer have to pretend a false innocence but rather admit your rebellion and run to Him / **and you know what else? In Christ there is no more hoping in vain...** (listen: **I know that some of you have stopped hoping because you are tired of being disappointed over and over again... so your mechanism to not be crushed nor disappointed again, is to NOT hope again...** [And—can we be honest? —no season makes us more cynical than Christmas. **On the surface, it's all about good cheer and happiness. But if we're hurting, we look around and think, "This is all a lie. How can I possibly enjoy a season like this with my life in the shape that it is?"** (you lost someone around this time / can't get pregnant / you are broke financially and people don't realize how hard you work... I've been there, I've been at the \$5 dollar an hour warehouse working during Christmas, and broke... I know what is like to be 11 years / 11 Christmases without your dad, and in my case not because he was a bad dad, but because he was unjustly put in jail being an innocent man; and was taken from me at an age I needed him so much... (and for those who think that innocent people don't go to jail, come-on you haven't read Paul's letters in The Bible...)). 11 Christmases without dad... so I know this season can be painful and you don't want to hope, you don't want to be disappointed again]. **But listen, I'm not asking you to trust humans; stop trusting for what mere humans can do for you, hope in The Lord! He always fulfills His promises, stop banking on the promises of people and stand of the promises of God!**
 - **I know my Redeemer lives!**) He delivers captives / He defends the feeble / He blesses the young / He serves the unfortunate / He regards the aged and the hurting and beautifies the meek / He takes the lowly and despised, raises them up to shame the proud
 - Stand in The Prince of Peace, **in Him we always make it...** He fights for you and He is growing you... [He is with you like a mighty warrior - Jeremiah 20:11].
- And now (**here is great news**) in the arms of the Prince, it becomes **irrelevant** whether tomorrow in life you'll face prosperity or adversity, doesn't even matter for I am **in and with** The Prince of Peace. **Now that's freedom!** (it doesn't matter what life throws your way when you abide in the shadow of the Prince of Peace) --- I no longer worry whether tomorrow, I'll get a raise, or I'll be out of the job, **my hope is in The Lord, and though that kind of faith should be rewarded, my hope is in someone greater, and that hope has name: Prince of Peace!**
- This is the difference between the world's idea of hope and the Christian idea. For the world, "hope" is just wishful thinking. For the Christian, "hope" has a name. It's concrete. It's real. It literally came into our world. And because it came into our world we know He can come through in our moments of difficulty. He's done it before!

- We embrace the hand we've been dealt in life whatever it may be because I am safe and secure in The Prince of Peace (I'm not worried about prosperity AND adversity for I can surely sin against God with either... I'm worried about trusting He who gave me life and eternal promise in paradise with Him for ever...)
- Christ is the stability of our days!
- Jesus is seated at the throne; oh what rest it is for us to know that He is Prince of Peace. So, until our last breath, God's people are to wait patiently and serve diligently. In this life, we are to suffer courageously and serve humbly like Jesus did during His incarnation, because all will be made right in due time when The Prince returns. That's why the very next verse, verse 7 says: **"7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."** Isaiah 9:7
- Now, when you try to be king and lord of your life, that's when you get in trouble.... Sheeps don't know better

That's Christ as Prince, stable, victorious, unshakeable. Let me show you real quick, **Christ as Peace**.

A land and a people can only be as peaceful as their Prince/as their King. **A land cannot be more peaceful than its ruler, the ruler dictates the climate.**

The decisions of a Prince will make or break a kingdom... it's no coincidence that we long for a stable, powerful, everlasting place where peace reigns AND God calls Jesus mighty, everlasting, Prince of peace. God has come to birth **bringing the realities of our future in Him**, by who He is and what He came to accomplish.

- Isaiah reveals that **it is** the work of the Lord that which brings you peace; he says, **"And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever."** Isaiah 32:17
- **Peace is tied to righteousness**, and the reason we cannot attain peace on our own, is because **humanity is not righteous at all apart from Christ. I don't stand up here as someone who has it together looking down at 'you sinners.'** – The only reason I don't drop dead behind this pulpit while reading God's Holy Word is because of the righteousness of Jesus attributed to me **as gift by His grace through faith and repentance. The biggest piece of evidence I have that humanity can't be righteous apart from Christ is my own heart.**
- The Prince of peace God's talking about here, is a Prince of Shalom, and shalom is not merely sitting by a quiet river, the concept of true peace (shalom) is the concept of wholeness/of completeness (things as they should be)
- **Peace is not just the absence of conflict, is the presence of something better in its place, something better than lack of conflict (2x)**
 - **##us:** You see, this is why when you tell a friend that's gotten on your nerves or your kids to **"shut up"** 'cause you are attempting to end conflict, they may shut up, but the silence or lack of conflict still feels bad, because there is NO restoration / there is nothing that's actually better than lack of conflict
 - **So lack of conflict is not true shalom...** it leaves you NOT complete / NOT whole / lacking...
 - That's why **"inanimate lack of conflict type of people"** can be as bad in a relationship than anyone... they do nothing, there is no conflict but something is missing that does not give you peace even if there is no yelling in the relationship....
- The Word Shalom in the past was used for **a perfect stone that had no cracks, and for a perfect wall that had no gaps....** So a City and a people with such stones and walls, could live in shalom / in completeness and wholeness, full protection, security, and peace / no cracks / no gaps....
- So when something cracks in our life, when **sin** creates gaps, you are in need of shalom, **which by the way here is a fact:** Shalom as a verb literally means TO RESTORE, TO MAKE COMPLETE
- But we cannot attain that peace and that state of completeness on our own, because humanity (us) we are full of cracks and gaps... the broken self cannot help itself (**I don't just need someone to come and fix the mess everyone around me has made, I need someone to come and fix me. I don't need to turn over a new leaf; I need the power of a new life**), and that's why is such AMAZING NEWS that: **THE PRINCE OF PEACE came down to do for us what we couldn't do for ourselves!** / To Shalom us / to restore and complete us, for He is perfect Shalom/perfect peace, **in fact, He is The Prince of Peace!**
- That is the miracle of Christmas, the fact that **"unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."** Isaiah 9:6

- Jesus is the arrival of Shalom, He made peace for the cracks and gaps between us sinners and a Holy God, He alone restores us to wholeness and completeness with our maker
- Listen: He filled the cracks and gaps in our lives by absorbing the cracks and gaps into himself! He was so committed to restoring wholeness to us, that he would become broken in our place. He took the brokenness, and he offers us his wholeness. **He took the war into his body, and he offers us His peace!**
- Jesus was the **complete and perfect human** that I was made to be **but failed to be...** and in an act of pure mercy and love, He offers His perfect life as a gift for all who receive it
- He didn't do that by spraying some pine fabreeze in the air; **He gave His life / His blood was shed, for God's glory and our salvation!** The wonder of Christmas is that that cradle is tied to the cross, the cross we deserved, yet He took for us
- We will have NO peace apart from Christ, for He is the only righteous one that can restore it...

Listen church, we live in a violent, violent world :(... it saddens me.

- And we won't find Shalom unless we completely surrender and behold ~~the only one that fought that battle for us and won it / the only Prince of Peace~~; Jesus.
- Listen: **You become what you behold!**
 - I know what I'm about to say is really hard to hear, but it would be cruel of me not to tell you the truth that will set you free, and I beg you to listen to it with love and disposition: Wanna know why some of you are full of pride that's easily angered? Because you behold you... as if you were a humble king, you are not... you only look at life through the lens of self... I say this in love: you are a prideful wanna be king... and you think you want peace but what you actually want is to do as you please... you can't have peace and do as you please... grow up in The Lord.
 - And we treat our criteria's and opinions, and conclusions as if they were The Word of God, they are not!
 - It takes a real King, a King of peace to deliver us from ourselves and the violence of our hearts & minds
 - We need peace you'all

I'm so sick of violence and anger from every side and every isle, **we NEED The Prince of Peace!**

- ///us: Pastor Rick Langston (who has been at TSC 30 years) told me something years ago that is very profound;
- I was telling pastor Rick about how I hate wars.... I grew up in a communist country where everything is violence,
- In a communist country, they teach you how to fight and shoot a gun since you are a little boy (and is not like they teach you to shoot a gun to hunt deers either, it's pretty evil...). I have fought so many times in my life that I really think if you were to pick a fight with me today, I'll let you hit me, **I'm just sick of violence :(... before MMA was popular we were beating each other up like animals already...** I don't let my kids play any video games where they shoot people, or any fighting game... / I'm sick of how violent this world is (perhaps that's why my taste in cars has expanded from American Muscle Cars to love Volkswagens, and Subaru's ☺)
- But as I was telling some of this to Pastor Rick on how I hate wars, he said to me, "Raudel, no one wants to go to war, but remember we have wars as a last resort if we must, for the sake of peace." Wow!!!
- I've never seen it that way... Jesus is the King of peace, but that peace He offers came at great cost!!! He went to war for you! He fought real enemies: Our wicked hearts that reject Him, and Satan; / Jesus faced enemies you and I don't stand a chance against, and HE did it for the sake of OUR peace; / Jesus (Colossians 2 says), "...canceled the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This Jesus set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him." / He went to war for you for the sake of YOUR peace. Not only this, but JESUS volunteered to be the casualty of war so that you could go free! / Isaiah says, "the punishment that brought US peace was on HIM"
- You would be a fool to not take the bounty of victory that Jesus offers, but only His Kingship can deliver you from the pride and anger of your wicked heart and RESTORE YOU TO WHOLENESS AND COMPLETENES IN GOD.
 - Stop living like if you are a capable king, you know what you and I are? Revelations 3:17 "You say, ...I do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked." Rev. 3:17 – **that's what we are without God**; and verse one of that same chapter says that some of you, "have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up" in the name of Jesus, and know freedom & peace.
- God saved us **FROM** ourselves, **TO** Himself, **THROUGH** Himself, **BY** Himself, and **FOR** Himself

- He took on flesh, that we may take on unity with The God of Peace
- He wore our sin, that we may wear His Holiness; what Prince does that?
- He lived our poverty and ruined, that we may live in the bounty of His presence and Kingdom forever
- He became a man, that we may become sons and daughters of the living GOD
- He took mortality, that we be may immortals in the Land where we will walk with God again
- He took humanity that we make take on divinity/everlasting life

Folks the reason we need a mighty King is because we were made to be led, protected, nurtured, loved, and blessed by one...

The problem with being king for ourselves is that we can't do what the Kings of kings and Lord of lords can do

But the surprising nature of Jesus' Kingship is that He is love, and justice, and humble, a wonderful counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace.

Brethren I cannot end this sermon, without going back to the beginning of the chapter; I know life looks bleak right now, but **it will not be like that forever....**

Isaiah 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land..., but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation

and increased their joy;

they rejoice before you

as people rejoice at the harvest,

as warriors rejoice

when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat,

you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,

the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor.

6 For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty

will accomplish this. Let us pray.... End.