



PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK TWO: PROMISE

The Promise of Peace

“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.” ~ Isaiah 9:7

I tend to base my future peace on past successes. You know, “If I could just get back to “X”, everything would be great.” Don’t we tend to view the world through the lens of our own prosperity? We have a hard time viewing the world outside of our experience. We see the path to peace and prosperity through the lens of our past experience, both success and failings, and a small-minded view, or band-aid, of what would make things better. For this reason, it is easy to find ourselves in the story of the Israelites. Their story is, so often, our story.

The prophet Isaiah made the promise that Jesus would be born and reign as the eternal King almost 700 years before the event of his birth. Let that sink in – 700 YEARS!!! And of all of the grandeur of this prophecy, the best part is the promise of PEACE. The promise of Jesus is the promise of PEACE. Isaiah says here that the peace Jesus would bring is never-ending. Of course, the Israelites were viewing this prophecy through the lens of the physical, as they were longing for an establishment of peace through governmental strength and military might. In fact, the reference to David’s throne would remind them of a day when Israel’s prosperity was at its peak. So, this promise was seemingly a return to restoring the nation of Israel to its former greatness. In reality, it was so much bigger, so much greater.

The promise of the reigning peace of Jesus transcends the foundation of a single nation. In fact, the reign of the government of Jesus is world-wide and all-consuming. And the difference is that it goes beyond brick and mortar, and any physical boundaries. The reign of Jesus is a super-natural reign over every heart that says yes. “Let every heart prepare him room...” - The promise of God was established in Israel but has been offered to the world. “For God so loved THE WORLD that he gave us HIS SON...”. As he governs your heart, your pursuits will change, your desires will be transformed, and the result will be the life you’ve always wanted – not a past version of you, but a BRAND NEW YOU. And the new life is rooted in peace. The promise of Jesus is the promise of peace.

Prayer

Today, thank Jesus for making a way to live a transformed life and experience His peace. Ask Him to place on your heart people in your sphere of influence who are in need of the peace only He can provide. Pray for them daily to receive the gift of Jesus and His peace in their hearts.

