

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **13 – Prince of Peace**

*Every name of God is an eternal Name. God has always desired to have a relationship with us, which is free from conflict and disharmony. However, Adam and Eve, prompted by Satan, destroyed that harmony. Ever since, humanity has an inherent bias towards rebelling against God. The great mantra of humanity echoes throughout history, "No, God! I will do it my way."*

#### **Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7**

The sad reality is that independence from God and rejecting His ways, rather than releasing us into freedom, peace and joy, brings tragedy, loneliness, fear, guilt, pain and hopelessness.

However hard we try to exist without our Creator, we find there remains in the deep recess of our soul a longing, a sigh and an ache that God alone can fill. All the money, all the toys, achievements, accolades, and all the fame and power that this world offers can never dull the pain or gratify the aspirations of the human spirit. Material blessings were not designed to satisfy spiritual needs.

Our spiritual need is primarily for relationship, that is relationship with our Creator. However, all relationships have to be reciprocal. Our Creator is perfect, righteous and holy. We are imperfect, disobedient to His ways and commands, and above all else, rebellious. Consequently, God has to distance Himself from us. He cannot accept our iniquities into His presence. We are therefore doomed to a Godless eternity.

God is a good and loving God. He saw and understood our pitiful state and decided to do something about it. He couldn't change His character, nor could He change the sentence hanging over us. All He could do was devise a plan to restore peace between us, and restore the relationship that had been irrevocably broken.

Yes, the relationship was irrevocably broken from our perspective, and nearly completely broken from His. There was only one way – plan A – to restore the damage Satan, through Adam and Eve, had initiated. Only God could restore the relationship. God was the Author and Finisher of the plan. God, Himself, paid the price when Jesus came in human form and died on the Cross.

When Jesus died, the price was paid. When Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven, our peace was assured and our relationship restored with God as our Heavenly Father.

The Cross, however, stands today as a symbol and reminder that Christ achieved more than just peace with God. He achieved peace for all mankind. Because, through Christ's death, I can be forgiven for my rebellion against a holy God, I am expected to forgive those who have used, abused, hurt or injured me.

At the foot of the Cross of Christ I lose all my rights. At the foot of the Cross, so do you. Consequently, I can be reconciled to you. I can be reconciled to my enemies. Incrimination, discrimination, vengeance and war must cease at the foot of the Cross, for there the Prince of Peace died once and for all time. "*Vengeance is mine,*" says the Lord. Not mine or yours so, consequently, we can live in peace with each other.

But please notice – human reconciliation can only take place at the foot of the Cross. We both

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have to surrender to Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, can then bring us into a peaceful relationship.

### **What does that name mean for us today?**

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When He died on the Cross, He paid the price for us to be reconciled to God and to experience peace with God, as Father. Being at peace with God enables us to be at peace with all mankind.

### **Prayer**

*Please Father, make me an instrument of your peace.*

*Where there is hatred, let me sow love.*

*Where there is injury, pardon.*

*Where there is doubt, faith.*

*Where there is despair, hope.*

*Where there is darkness, light.*

*Where there is sadness, joy.*

*And grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

*Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- John 14:25-29
- Colossians 3:1-17
- Romans 12:9-21

### **Questions**

1. How can we obtain peace with God?
2. How can we maintain peace with our neighbours, work-colleagues and those who offend us?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?