



## Prince Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace

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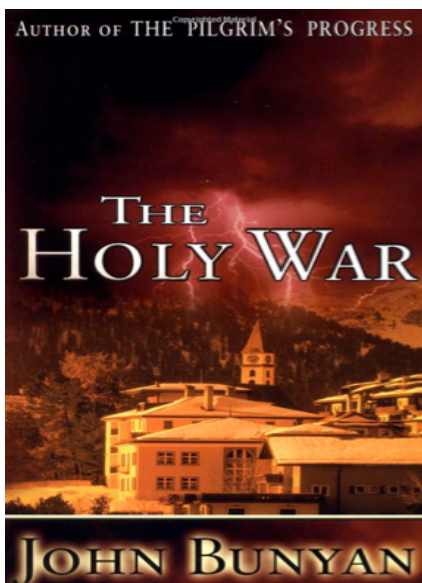
Minister-at-Large C & MA, Mid West District

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### A. From Desire to Despair to Declaration

I heard the bells on Christmas day their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, good will to men. **And thought** how, as the day had come, the belfries of all Christendom had rolled along th'unbroken song of peace on earth, good will to men. Till ringing, singing on its way the world revolved from night to day, a voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, good will to men. And in despair **I bowed** my head "There is no peace on earth," I said, for hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men. **Then** pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth, good will to men. (Henry Longfellow, 1864)

### B. Experiences of War and Peace



The allegorical battle for the town of Mansoul: Mansoul's first founder and builder was one called Shaddai [God Almighty]. He built it for his own delight, making it the masterpiece of all that He did . . . it was said by some that the angels came down to see it and sang for joy. . . King Shaddai intended this palace for Himself along, partly for His own delight and partly because He did not want foreigners to invade Mansoul . . . a mighty giant named Diabolus [Satan] made an assault upon [Mansoul] . . . and tried to take it and make it His own habitation . . .the people of Mansoul let Diabolus in . . . forgetting their good King Shaddai, His law and judgement. The King called for His Son, Emmanuel answered, "Here I am, my Father." Emmanuel entered the town . . . As Emmanuel passed by, the townsfolk welcomed Him with shouts and acclamations of joy saying, "Blessed be the Prince who comes in the name of His Father Shaddai . . .they wept aloud, asking for forgiveness . . . then Emmanuel drew the people close to Himself and kissed them." (pp. 7, 18, 82, 283-5)

<https://librivox.org/holy-war-by-john-bunyan/>

### C. Emmanuel (God with Us): Our Promised Peace

**Isaiah 7:14:** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him **Emmanuel**.

**Isaiah 9:6:** 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**.

### D. Glory Ascends to God and Peace Descends on Earth

**Luke 2: 9-14:** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a **Saviour** has been born to you; **He is the Messiah, the Lord**. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host [army] appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"**Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests**."

This narrative is: **Historically grounded, Theologically necessary, Contemporary in application and Universal** in offering, and profoundly **Personal**

#### Dynamics of Glory and Peace

**Glory** means to be heavy in weight, importance, desirable uniqueness, beauty, majesty, and splendor. To "give glory to God" is to love Him with all of our being, to live for Him and in devotion to Him, and to speak of His amazing nature and deeds, from our hearts, and, in the best way we know how, to boast in the reality of who He is as Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, Healer and Coming King (Ex 16:7; 33:18; Is 42:8). The chief end of humankind is to glorify God (Ps 86; Is 60:21) and to enjoy Him forever (Ps 16:5-11; Lk 2:10)

**Peace** means "to be complete or whole," "to be sound" or "to live well." Shalom is to be safe without division, a wholeness of life or body or right relationship (harmony) between people. Shalom is to make amends; it is to make good, to restore, to attain prosperity, to thrive and to flourish with well-being (1 Thess 5:23). Peace is not merely the absence of strife and difficulties but the vital and life-giving presence of God, received by faith, as we glorify Him.

## E. Insights for Those Upon Whom His Favour Rests? Peace Comes By . . .

**Being Justified by Faith** - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God (Romans 5:1, 2). Justification = Peace with God

**Receiving Peace by Faith** - 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 (**John 14:27**). All substitutes for His peace are unworthy of our attention or affection. One of most frequent commands in Bible – Do not be afraid!!

**Living Peacefully by Faith** - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (**Philippians 4:6-7**). Trusting God by rolling over anxiety (opposite of peace) to Prince Jesus – the burden bearer – believing His promises (**Matt 11:29-30**).

**Practicing His Presence and Doing His Will** - Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the **God of peace** will be with you (**Philippians 4:9**).

**Promoting Peace** - “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ <sup>6</sup>If someone who promotes peace [son of peace] is there, **your peace will rest on them**; if not, it will return to you (**Luke 10:5-6**). If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone (Romans 12:18). Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (**Matt 5:9**)

## F. Appropriating the Benefits of Personally Knowing the Prince of Peace

But now in Christ Jesus [Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace] you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup>by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup>He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit (**Ephesians 2:13-18**).

1. He is our peace -- He is the origin and source of authentic and deep peace (**Micah 5:4, 5a**).
2. Emmanuel – God with Us – Prince Emmanuel gives us access to the Father
3. He came, destroyed dividing walls, made peace -- he preached peace. We need to live and walk in His slipstream.
4. As his co-inheritors/joint heirs, He made us to be ambassadors of reconciliation and trustees of His peace (**Rom 8: 16, 17, 2 Cor 5:20**). For personal study: See how Mary appropriated the promised peace, amidst her fears (**Lk 1:26-56**).

## **G. Whether You are Near or Far Today: There are Means for Laying Ahold of His Peace**

- a. **Be amazed** at His coming to BE your peace – Give glory to God in the highest heaven
- b. **Ask** the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, to BE your peace (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**)
- c. **Glorify** God in all your comings, goings, doings, and being (**Heb 13:20-21**)
- d. **Know** that God has won the battle for your soul through Jesus (**Rom 8; 16:20**)
- e. **Join** with the heavenly host to declare the glorious Good News of His Coming
- f. **Remember**, again – and again, that God is God; and you are not. Be overwhelmed as you surrender to His love, received His forgiveness and choose TODAY to be at peace with God, yourself and others. Let go of any known demandingness and self-righteousness. Let His peace deeply attend to your soul and to your heart pains. KNOW that God is with us (Emmanuel); He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and **Prince Peace**

## **H. Finally, Receive the Blessings and Benefits of Our Prince of Peace, Emmanuel!!!**

May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you **trust in him**, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**).

The merriment of Christmas: Celebrating the Birth of the Prince of Peace

**Erindale Alliance Church – Saskatoon**

*Pax vobis cum*