



SHALOM

Message given by Pastor Joe Keenan on April 29, 2007.

There is a word that God has spoken to my heart from His Word that promises us a life of peace, success, victory, and prosperity. It is the Hebrew word, “**Shalom.**” It is usually translated in the King James Bible as “peace,” but “peace” does

not sufficiently describe the full meaning of what God had in mind when He spoke it in the Old Testament. The following is a more complete definition of this Hebrew word:

שָׁלוֹם **SHALOM** – *The Old Testament Hebrew word for “Peace” in the Bible.*

Completeness, wholeness, nothing broken and nothing lacking, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, happiness, fullness, rest, harmony, the absence of agitation or discord.

The Jews have always greeted each other with the word “Shalom” rather than merely saying hello. In other words, they are literally speaking completeness, wholeness, happiness, health, etc., over the life of the person they were greeting. We, too, need to begin speaking this upon our own lives, upon our families, our homes, and our church.

*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth **peace** [shalom]; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth.” (Isaiah 52:7)*

In Romans 10:15, Paul quotes from this verse and there he calls it the “Gospel of Peace!” This is the very Gospel that we preach – a Gospel of “Shalom”! Through the preaching of this Gospel, we are bringing “shalom” to others!

When Jesus sent out His disciples, He gave them the following instructions:

“And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.” (Luke 10:5-6)

So the disciples understood that they were going to be bringing prosperity, perfectness, safety, soundness, salvation and health to whatever house they entered. We, too, are to be carries of “Shalom.”

How then can we bring this into our lives? This is our message for today!

There is a story 1 Kings chapter 2 that can help us relate to this Hebrew word, Shalom. The story is about a man named Shimei. In 2 Samuel 16, we read how King David was temporarily exiled from Jerusalem by His own son, Absalom. While he was fleeing from Jerusalem, Shimei (a descendent of King Saul) came out cursing David and throwing stones at him. David’s men wanted to kill Shimei, but David said, “No, leave him alone, perhaps God is going to look upon all my suffering and will bless me.” What a revelation David had of fully trusting God in the midst of adversity!

Years later, when David’s son, Solomon, came to the throne as king, Solomon came to Shimei and told him that he knew about the evil that Shimei had done to his father, David. Nevertheless, he told Shimei that he would not take any action against him as long as Shimei stayed within the city limits of Jerusalem.

“And the king sent and called for Shimei, and said unto him, Build thee an house in Jerusalem, and dwell there, and go not forth thence any whither. For it shall be, that on the day thou goest out, and passest over the brook Kidron, thou shalt know for certain that thou shalt surely die: thy blood shall be upon thine own head. And Shimei said unto the king, The saying is good: as my lord the king hath said, so will thy servant do. And Shimei dwelt in Jerusalem many days.” (1 Kings 2:36-38)

For some time Shimei remained safely inside of Jerusalem, but one day, in anxiety over some runaway servants, he forgot his agreement with the king:

“And it came to pass at the end of three years, that two of the servants of Shimei ran away unto Achish son of Maachah king of Gath. And they told Shimei, saying, Behold, thy servants be in Gath.” (1 Kings 2:39)

That simple mistake cost Shimei his life:

“So the king commanded Benaiah the son of Jehoiada; which went out, and fell upon him, that he died. And the kingdom was established in the hand of Solomon” (1 Kings 2:46).

How does this apply to our life today? Well, Jerusalem, in the Hebrew language, literally means “City of Shalom.” This is a message for us in that God also insists that we remain in the City of Shalom. God has a place in our relationship with Him which is a relationship of peace. All that is contained in the Hebrew word, shalom, is fully promised upon our life, as long as we abide where God has placed us. If we allow the enemy to draw us out of that place, then frustration and agitation can quickly overtake us.

Jerusalem also speaks about the local church. God’s Word makes it clear that there is a covering of shalom, a covering of peace, safety, and protection over our entire lives when we are committed to the local church in which God has planted us. When a person rejects the local church and feels it just isn’t necessary for his life, then he also rejects the very covering God has provided for his life.

The enemy has all kinds of tricks to try to get us to leave our “city of shalom.” We simply cannot afford this! Peace goes hand in hand with health! Even the doctors will tell you that cancer, heart problems, and many other diseases are all a result of stress and frustration in our lives. God has not designed us for such a life. We must believe that it is God’s will for us to live in a state of shalom all of our days!

Now that we have a more clear understanding about what this Hebrew word, shalom, means, let’s look at a few Scriptures that reveal how we can lay hold of this shalom and bring it into our lives.

*“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our **peace** was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)*

The first thing that we need to have impressed clearly upon our hearts is that this peace, “shalom”, has already been purchased for us by Jesus Christ on the Cross over 2000 years ago. It is ours for the asking! As God’s children, it belongs to us!

We must remember that just like with other promises in God’s Word, there are times we must fight for the fulfillment of what God has already given. There are many situations in life that bring great agitation and can try to rob us of this peace, but as you begin seeking God and speaking shalom over your life, soon we will find that such circumstances cannot move us out of that place of peace.

*“I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for He will speak **peace** unto His people, and to His saints: but let them not turn again to folly. Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; **righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**” (Psalm 85:8-10)*

In this Scripture it is revealed that shalom has a very close “relationship” with righteousness – they “kiss” each other! The moment we allow unrighteousness and sin into our life, peace is the first to leave.

“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked” (Isaiah 57:20).

When we maintain a right relationship with God, there may be a storm on the outside, but there will be a great calm on the inside.

*“Great peace have they which love Thy law: and nothing shall offend them.” (Psalm 119:165)
“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.” (Isaiah 26:3)*

Shalom can continue to flow into our lives as we love, read, memorize, and simply delight ourselves in God’s Word. When you are going through a trial, take time to read the Bible and allow God to speak “shalom” over your life. When keep our mind upon the Lord in this way, God promises to keep us in “perfect shalom.”

Another awesome promise concerning this shalom is that as we allow God’s shalom to overflow in our lives, then God will extend this peace through us to touch, heal, and transform the lives of others around us:

*“For thus saith the Lord, Behold, **I will extend peace** to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees.” (Isaiah 66:12)*

Finally, as we walk in the shalom that God has promised us, then we can know assuredly that even our enemies will be crushed under our feet!

“And the God of peace shall bruise [crush] Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.” (Romans 16:20)

“The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace [shalom].” (Numbers 6:24-26)