

That's My Jesus: Prince of Peace

Part 3

The Purpose of This Series: Too much about Jesus gets lost in the shuffle during Christmas and in our preparations for the next year. These four messages, of this series, are to help us press through the clutter and better identify who our Jesus is. These are not your typical seasonal sermons, but they are to assist us to better equip us to know who Christ is and in that to better know who we are in Christ.

The Purpose of This Message: Today's message is a little different than one I would normally give, given the topic, The Prince of Peace. But we are in a juncture in the history of mankind and the presence of Christ, I believe, will become increasingly more clear and defined as the days are approaching. I want to give hope this morning while sharing a present reality. There are practical insights for understanding how to walk in peace but also how to understand that we serve the Prince of Peace. He will not adjust to the philosophies of this world nor will He blend with the others God's that are so "equally" expressed today. Jesus is the Messiah. He was brought to this earth as the redeemer of all mankind. Today we should take inventory of where He might reign in us and take the appropriate steps to draw near to Him because without Him there will surely be no peace in this world!

Intro:

The goal for us this morning is to walk out of this church with the peace of God all over us.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May all who love this city prosper."

Psalm 122:6 (NLT)

This scripture tells us that there is favor over those who pray for the peace of Jerusalem and Israel. There is a blessing on those who keep this in mind. It's appropriate that we would pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the whole region. We need to understand that those all around Jerusalem have an opportunity to hear the incredible gospel of Jesus Christ. No better place in the whole world could the message of Jesus Christ be communicated and sent out to the rest of the world than right there. It is the epicenter of the major religions in all the world. When we pray for Peace in Jerusalem, we are not just praying for Jews, we are praying for the revelation of the Prince of Peace to have an incredible encounter in that city that would flood the region and surrounding countries.

A **statue** stands **outside the United Nations** headquarters in New York City symbolizing man's dream of one day witnessing the end of war and peace. The **muscular bronze image holds his hammer overhead, forging a sword into a plow.**

"He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation ..."

Isaiah 2:4

This has been an impossible feat for man, but for Jesus Christ, He is the Prince of Peace and is the promise for all men. Christ's first great achievement will be to bring an end to warfare as we know it.

Revelation 19 says that we are headed on a world collision course in the area of Jerusalem. But we have the opportunity to pray that peace would reside in that city and surrounding area so that people could hear the proclamation of the gospel message.

“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.”

Isaiah 9:6

- Five times in the New Testament we encounter the beautiful name the "God of Peace", the Source of true peace (which parallels the OT name Jehovah Shalom) -- (Ro 15:33; 16:20; Phil 4:9; 1 Thes 5:23; Heb. 13:20)

“Of the increase 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.”

Isaiah 9:7

This is an incredible description of who Jesus is. There are **more than 350 names and descriptions of Jesus in the Bible**, and some of them are right here in Isaiah.

Question: What is Peace? My definition:

“Peace is the abundance of well being in the midst of tragedy and upheaval.”

As a believer we are given the privilege to find this sense of tranquility above the overwhelming temptation to do otherwise. Actually, if Christ is in our heart, “Peace” should be a resident experience. Actually, peace should rule us.

- **What The World Needs Now Is Peace-** 'Today, approximately 70% of the world refugee population is in Africa and the Middle East. This is a dramatic increase since the **mid-1970s when there were less than 3 million** refugees worldwide. At the **beginning of 2000 an estimated 14 million** people were living as refugees, uprooted from their homes and forced to cross an international border. **Presently there are an estimated 20.8 million refugees**, (www.un.org, World Refugee Day, 20 June) throughout the world who either fled genocide, starvation or violent war. (www.geography.about.com, refugees, Dateline: 09/22/00)

The Prince of Peace

Do you need peace in your life? The Prince of Peace—Jesus Christ—is where you’ll find it!

Webster's dictionary describes peace as,

“A state of tranquillity, quiet, calm, freedom from civil disturbance, A state of security - being secure within a community, freedom from oppression, strife and disorder. In harmony in personal relations. Untroubled by conflict, agitation or commotion.”

Jesus was talking with His disciples before His crucifixion said to them,

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”

John 14:27

How is it that Jesus could give His disciples "peace" when He was about to suffer on Calvary and His disciples would soon go through the worst experience of their lives up to that time? Just three days later, at evening on the day of His resurrection, Jesus came and stood in the midst of His disciples and said to them,

"Peace be with you.-- Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord."
John 20:19, 20

"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength."
Isaiah 26:3,4

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

What is peace?

The well-known Hebrew word translated for "**peace**" is **shalom**, which also means "**completeness,**" "**soundness,**" "**welfare,**" "**tranquility,**" "**contentment,**" and "**friendship.**" Shalom refers to **peace with God through a covenant relationship.** When Jesus Christ was born, a company of angels proclaimed,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."
Luke 2:14

Peoples of the world are divided in so many ways and cannot find the way to peace. The Spirit of God leads Christians to live a life of peacemaking, of caring, of giving, of love. As recipients of God's peace, Christians are called to live in contrast to this violent and selfish world. Jesus told his disciples,

"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

Christians have to struggle through periods of grief and hurt like everyone else. But we have divine help and assurance to hold us up. Though our physical circumstances may be gloomy and dark, the peace of God that lies within us keeps us settled, sure and steadfast, confident in the hope of Jesus Christ's return, when his peace will at last encompass all the earth. As we await that glorious day, let's remember the words of the apostle Paul,

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."
Colossians 3:15

Peace with God

87 times in the Old Testament the Jewish people were called to make a sacrifice called a "**peace offering**" **before the Lord**, to be at peace with God. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel.

The Old Testament declares that those who follow God's laws will have peace:

- Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble. (Psalm 119:165)
- The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. (Isaiah 32:17)
- How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding... Her [wisdom's] ways are pleasant ways, And all her paths are peace. (Proverbs 3:13, 17)

However, those who hate God and His laws will have no peace:

- "There is no peace for the wicked," says the LORD. (Isaiah 48:22; 57:21)
- They do not know the way of peace, And there is no justice in their tracks; They have made their paths crooked; Whoever treads on them does not know peace. (Isaiah 59:8)

God's Declaration To Man

"And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever."

Ezekiel 37:26

"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace."

Ephesians 2:14-15

The Old Testament prophecies proclaim that the Messiah would be the Prince of Peace. He would become a "New Covenant of Peace" for us. In this covenant, the Messiah would justify unworthy sinners through His sacrifice as the guilt offering of God.

"The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

Those who accept Jesus as Savior experience the peace provided by God's Spirit. This peace surpasses all comprehension for those who have never experienced it before.

Prince of Peace

1. **Don't Confuse Peace With Easy**
2. **Don't Confuse Peace Without Conflict**

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."

Luke 12:34-35

"Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two

against three. 53They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Luke 12:51-53

Elijah- Two Opinions

In the **third year of a severe drought** God spoke to Elijah and told him to **"Go and present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land."** (I Kings 18:1) In **verses 16-17**, when **Ahab saw Elijah**, he said to him, **"Is that you, you troubler of Israel?"**

Elijah challenged Ahab to a **God duel**. In **verse 19** Elijah tells Ahab to call **four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal** and the **four hundred prophets of Asherah** who sat around daily with Ahab's wife, Jezebel. If majority ruled, Elijah would be the outcast. The challenge we to take place on Mount Carmel. So Ahab assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

"Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.' But the people said nothing."

I Kings 18:21

Elijah asked a direct question, and a powerful one, **"How long will you waver between two opinions?"** In this passage it was obvious, **the people had no idea how to respond, they said nothing. They just stood there.** It is a powerful moment because God was going to show up, but there needed clarity and something to push them over the line.

Make a Decision!

Most of our life is spent doing nothing more than responding to life's situations from the simple memorized statements in our minds.

Our lives are really not different than Brandan's response to a punch thrown his way. We have little, mental responses that were put in our minds by our parents, other outside influence such as teachers, personal experiences, what we have studied, what God has placed there and what Satan has sown there.

I believe the greatest **"lack of peace"** that we experience **escalates when we are making difficult decisions or facing the results of actions to a difficult situation without having the proper decision making abilities.** The ability to find peace in your life amidst all the challenging situation that you must respond to is not found in making all the perfect decisions, it is knowing that all your decisions have been laid before the Lord, and no matter what you determine as the proper direction His peace will never leave you. **But the challenge is to practice God statements in your mind which may or may not be in conflict to the millions of simple statements that we hold in our mind.**

Elijah simplified it, he said there are just **two opinions**, God's and all the others. These simple little statements that run around in our minds actually rule our lives. If they go unchallenged then we have the tendency to repeat our history or behavior and thus run amuck, possibly shipped wrecked.

The Galatian's

Paul challenges the Galatian's because there was confusion, backbiting and a destructive

ploy among them to destroy the love that was once there. Paul asks them,

"You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?"

Galatians 5:7

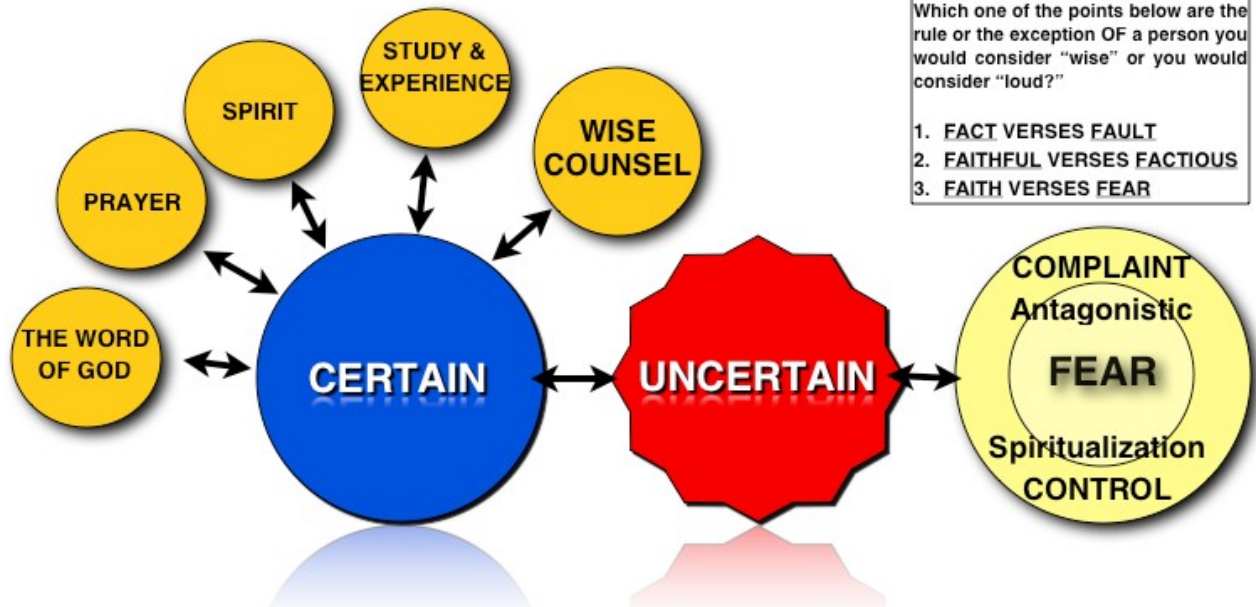
Effective Decision Making

Too often we become "certain" as to what we should do in making a clear and decisive decision, but then we move back into "uncertainty." It is important to understand what it is that moves us from "certainty" back to "uncertainty." As believers in Christ, we have four key obligations in making clear and decisive decisions. Once these key components are actuated, then a person has to take the appropriate steps despite the personal fear or outward objection. What often hinders an individual, constantly throwing them into uncertainty again is because of loud opinions rather than wise counsel. Seek out counsel, not opinions. Some people cannot distinguish the difference between a "loud" opinion and "wise" counsel. Loud opinion is not the same as wise counsel. Opinions are based upon one's personal observation but counsel is based upon wisdom and experience.

The TEST FOR OPINION VERSES WISDOM
RULE AND THE EXCEPTION

Which one of the points below are the rule or the exception OF a person you would consider "wise" or you would consider "loud?"

1. FACT VERSES FAULT
2. FAITHFUL VERSES FACTIOUS
3. FAITH VERSES FEAR



Life's Simple Process

1. **Given situation:** A situation that demands that we either immediately respond to or steps are developed for an upcoming situation. In either case, there is a situation.

I heard Brandan Bustamonte share how he was trained so well in martial arts that when someone threw a punch his response was so fast, and he had repeated that response so many times that it actually felt like it was in slow motion like the Matrix. His first action was a ready set, a first response that could quickly deflect an attacker without “thinking.”

2. **Personal First Action:**

- Hide
- Run
- Respond emotionally, (laugh, anger, feel attacked, fight, deflect)
- Stonewall- shut down
- Rebel
- Procrastinate
- Rash Response- act without counsel or direction
- Correct Response- by picking the right one out of many or actually having place the correct response within you.

3. **Review and Access:** (It answers three questions)

1. **What just happened?**
2. **Why did it happen?**
3. **What do I do next?**

This is a natural process for us, it's what we do but we do not all do it the same. We have a tendency to dwell more on one than the other. Some of us need more information than others, some need to know “why” more than others and some simply need to know “what's next?”

Isn't that interesting? That we find ourselves at similar places and continue to respond differently. It's important at this point to know that none of these questions are wrong, but they are not good alone. You actually need to have some clarity in all of these areas, but it could take years, it could take a painful, even brutal encounter. Remember, we are talking about the Prince of Peace. But He doesn't take life's situations from us, but He promises to go through them with you, never leaving your side and as a result of it, He glorifies Himself through you. You learn quickly as you journey with Christ as the Prince of Peace, that there is nothing like sowing your life as a seed of hope and faith toward God, because it is so powerful for others.

Moses

In **Deuteronomy 1**, Moses reviews life's simple process, the “**Given Situation**,” the first of the forty years that Israel wandered in the wilderness in response to the opinions of ten people who did not like God's process. He reminds this new generation of Israel their “**First Reaction**” to the Word of the Lord and the results of it, forty years in the wilderness. Did he ever have time to **Review and Access**, 40 years worth! All of this was the result of not knowing how to trust God and find His peace and thus becoming influenced by another “Opinion.”

In Deuteronomy 2, Moses is in year 38 of the wilderness experience. (Deut. 2:14) God is about to lead the children of Israel into the promise land because **the entire generation of fighting men had perished from the camp**. At this point they were moving from confusion to direction, **it was not easy and it was not without conflict**, but it was the promised land!

I love what God says here,

"You have made your way around this hill country long enough; now turn north."

Deuteronomy 2:3

I believe that uncertainty is a wilderness experience and that my friend is the lack of peace. It is a difficult journey filled with multiple opinions that causes you to fluctuate from certainty to uncertainty. As in the children of Israel's situation, loud opinions is what not only threw them into uncertainty but also disobedience!

Now they are at transition time. This is a group of people who never experienced the past failures, they only lived in the results of it. Now they are in the moment of decision, a requirement of becoming certain.

Esau Land

God speaks to Moses and tells him to "order" them to go in a specific direction.

"You are about to pass through the territory of your brothers the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, but be very careful."

Deuteronomy 2:4

Notice that God has them go "through the territory" of "your brothers." What is so significant is to see what God has done through a very distant relative. At this time, Esau was probably a community joke. The story that had been passed down among the children and now the adults is how Esau sold his birthright, he blew it for a bowl of beans. But here are his descendants at "Seir" which means hairy or shaggy, sounds somewhat like how Esau was described. They were living where the children of Israel feared to go years before. And notice as well, Esau's descendants were suspicious of the children of Israel. There was more than story being told that day. God was clear with the directions and actions they were to take. Notice down in verse 12 there is more of the story told,

"Horites used to live in Seir, but the descendants of Esau drove them out. They destroyed the Horites from before them and settled in their place..."

Deuteronomy 2:12

Horites means, "Cave Dwellers." They were the local cave people and Esau's descendants drove them out and lived in their stead. So God tells the children of Israel,

"Do not provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land, not even enough to put your foot on. I have given Esau the hill country of Seir as his own. You are to pay them in silver for the food you eat and the water you drink."

Deuteronomy 2:5-6

God made it very clear that Esau was living in the land where He had given them to live and that he had conquered to live in. Don't intimidate them or even think of staying, not even your "foot" He says. "DON'T GO THERE!"

Lot Land

Now comes the next jolt on the journey. Again, passing through the land of distant relatives:

"So we went on past our brothers the descendants of Esau...and traveled along the desert road of Moab."

Deuteronomy 2:8

Again God gives clear instructions to Moses to inform his people with,

"Do not harass the Moabites or provoke them to war, for I will not give you any part of their land. I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession."

Deuteronomy 2:9

Phase II of their break out journey is to view, carefully from a distance, Lot's relatives. Again, a warning not to go bullying them around and trying to take over in your zealously, don't take any

of it because God made it very clear that He had given Lot and his descendants that particular land. Now listen to some other detail that is so important in this reading.

"The Emites used to live there—a people strong and numerous, and as tall as the Anakites."
Deuteronomy 2:10

Now you get the picture, a strong, numerous amount of people who were giants. Wasn't this the same reason why the children didn't enter the promised land? Was it because of the comments made about the giants? But here were the "rejects." The not so blessed, the second hand peoples who defeated the giants, those more numerous and strong. But they went! See, they didn't sit still. They may have not been God's appointed individuals to be the first class citizens, but they were not the ones who ended up in bondage for over 400 years, or wondering around in the desert for 40. Laugh all you want to about Esau, but his descendants didn't take the easy way out.

Israel's Land

Now God asked Moses to take action. It was year 38, (verse 14), they had seen Esau's and Lot's descendants. You see they overcame the challenges of strong, numerous, even giants! So you go, says the Lord,

"Now get up and cross the Zered Valley.' So we crossed the valley."
Deuteronomy 2:13

God gives them clear instructions, details as to what they should be doing,

"Set out now and cross the Arnon Gorge. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his country. Begin to take possession of it and engage him in battle."
Deuteronomy 2:24

- 1. Don't Confuse Peace With Easy**
- 2. Don't Confuse Peace Without Conflict**

"This very day I will begin to put the terror and fear of you on all the nations under heaven. They will hear reports of you and will tremble and be in anguish because of you."
Deuteronomy 2:25

Could you ask for anything more from God? He is saying, look Moses, look where I have taken you from, why you were there and what would be next. Now I will be with you, I will put terror and fear on "all" nations. I will precede you in your journey. But Moses' response might shock you,

"From the desert of Kedemoth I sent messengers to Sihon king of Heshbon offering peace..."
Deuteronomy 2:26

Are you kidding me? What? What are you doing Moses? I can't help but hear the sound of music being played in the background on commercials until someone says something and you can hear the vinyl record being scratched and then sudden silence. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING MOSES? Here's what he was thinking,

"Let us pass through your country. We will stay on the main road; we will not turn aside to the right or to the left. Sell us food to eat and water to drink for their price in silver. Only let us pass through on foot..."
Deuteronomy 2:27-28

Are you shocked? You should be! But there is a lesson for us to understand here and we must get it in our understanding,

"But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. For the LORD your God had made his spirit stubborn and his heart obstinate in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done."

Deuteronomy 2:30

Listen, if you haven't figured it out by now, **God will not let you have peace where He has declared war!** That's just the way it is. Is He a God of Peace? Absolutely, but He is God and His truth shall reign. There is often war in our life because of compromise with the enemy. Your hard times might be responses of peace packs with our enemy.

History of Peace: Of **3530 years of recorded history**, the entire world has **been at peace less than 8% of the time**, only **286 years**. Moreover, in excess of **8000 peace treaties were made & broken**. During this same period of time there were **14,351 wars**, large & small, in which **3.64 billion people were killed**. (Will and Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History*, Chap. 1)

Who Will Make The Peace?

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The Move Of God In The Midst Of Turmoil- December 17, 2009

(<http://www.joelrosenberg.com>)

What will happen next between Israel and Iran. **“Keep praying for peace, but preparing for war.”** Here's where I think we are at the moment:

1. **Netanyahu won the Israeli elections in February** in large measure because Israelis believed Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert had given away — or **offered to give away — too much land as previous prime ministers**, and had been thanked with two wars (2006 with Hezbollah, and January 2009 with Hamas in Gaza). **Israelis wanted a tough, decisive leader strong enough to go to war with Iran, if need be.**

2. **The Iranian nuclear crisis is worsening by the week.** As we end 2009, **Iran now has enough uranium (that we know of) to build at least two** functional nuclear weapons, and the missiles capable of delivering them. Israel does not seem to believe Iran currently has the bomb, but senior intel officials indicate they may **not be more than a year or two away.**

3. Netanyahu is quickly running out of options. **If the international community does not stop Iran, he will have to order the military to strike.** To maximize Israeli chances for success, he would have to do so: 1) **before Iran builds its first bomb; and 2) before Russia delivers and installs the S-300 anti-aircraft missile system that it has already sold to Iran.**

4. However, **Netanyahu knows he must exhaust all other means** short of a full blown air war against Iran if he is to garner any international support, most importantly from the U.S. — and he must be perceived as doing so.

5. This is why **Netanyahu has taken the following steps: declared a 10 month freeze of building Jewish settlements in the West Bank, dismantled dozens of roadblocks and check points in the West Bank, offered to begin peace talks with Palestinian Chairman Mahmoud Abbas immediately and without preconditions, offered to begin peace talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad immediately and without preconditions.** All these steps are designed to show the world — and particularly the U.S. — that Israel is not intransigent. They want peace with their neighbors.

6. **Israelis can see that Congress is squarely pro-Israel.** They are passing resolutions strongly in favor of the Jewish State with enormous bipartisan margins (such as the Iran gasoline sanctions act this week, that passed 412 to 12).

7. **Israelis can also see that the Obama administration is clearly not pro-Israel. This is why only 4% of Israelis believe President Obama is on their side this year, compared to 88% who believed President Bush was on their side last year.**

8. **Obama told Netanyahu that he would give diplomacy with Iran until the end of 2009.**

Netanyahu probably gave his word to Obama that he would not launch an overt war during this period. But time is now up.

9. The White House is talking about more economic sanctions against Iran early in 2010. But this requires full support at the U.N. from Russia and China. Obama recently told the Chinese premier that he could not stop an Israeli strike against Iran indefinitely. **He's trying to pressure the Russians and the Chinese to support sanctions.**

10. Netanyahu and his team are not confident that the U.N. Security Council will back decisive sanctions against Iran in early 2010. Moreover, it's not even clear that such sanctions — if they do begin fairly soon — could stop Iran's nuclear weapons development program at this point. It may simply be too late.

11. **Israeli leaders continue to hope that something dramatic will happen in Iran, like the death or toppling of Khamenei and Ahmadinejad. Meanwhile, Israel is running a covert war to slow down and sabotage the Iranian nuclear weapons program. But that does not appear to be proving to be enough.**

12. **Thus, 2010 may be the year of decision for the Netanyahu government. Time for taking action to stop Iran from going nuclear is rapidly running out. Israeli is facing the threat of annihilation from a regime that believes the End of Days is at hand and that the Islamic Messiah known as the Mahdi or the Twelfth Imam may not come unless the Jewish State and it's 7 million citizens has been vaporized. I can't say for sure a war is coming this year, but peace would truly be a miracle.**

• **What The World Needs Now Is Peace-** 'Today, approximately 70% of the world refugee population is in Africa and the Middle East. This is a dramatic increase since the **mid-1970s when there were less than 3 million** refugees worldwide. At the **beginning of 2000 an estimated 14 million** people were living as refugees, uprooted from their homes and forced to cross an international border. **Presently there are an estimated 20.8 million refugees**, (www.un.org, World Refugee Day, 20 June) throughout the world who either fled genocide, starvation or violent war. (www.geography.about.com, refugees, Dateline: 09/22/00)

Isaiah 9:6 prophesied of the birth of the "Prince of Peace," the angels announced His birth... Luke 2:14 and John explains Jesus' peace declaring...

"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

"Be anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing. How many times do you and I fret and turn, looking for a little peace? God's peace can be in our hearts — right now.

Colossians 3:15 says, **"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts."** Some of you believe that you know Jesus Christ as your Savior, but you haven't really made Him your Lord. You're missing the peace of God in your struggles and turmoils and trials and pressures of life. Is the peace of God in your heart?

Peace with God and the peace of God in a man's heart and the joy of fellowship with Christ have in themselves a beneficial effect upon the body and mind and will lead to the development and preservation of physical and mental power.

Privileges of The Peace of God:

- **He Will Hear Our Prayer: Matthew 6:6-** *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door*

and **pray** to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

- **He Will Give You Wisdom:** The privilege of **having divine wisdom and guidance continually**. The Bible says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him" (**James 1:5**).
- **He Will Be With You Always: Matthew 28:18,20-** The privilege of **true optimism**, the assurance that according to divine revelation everything will turn out well in the end.
- **He Will Allow You To See As He Sees:** We have the privilege to know God's plan for our lives and this world. We know that in spite of men's war and the destructive forces of Satan, God is still on the throne and in command of everything. **Satan himself is held back by God's power and given an opportunity to exercise his evil influence only as God sees fit and only as long as God sees fit to let him do it. The Scriptures teach us that God has a definite plan for each period of history, for every nation and for every individual. The Scripture discloses God's plan for the return of Christ when His kingdom shall be established, as we have already seen. Thus, for the Christian, life has a plan and an assurance that God will ultimately triumph over all unrighteousness.**

Future Peace

The Bible promises that there will be a time when the whole world is going to have peace. It seems that the world is heading toward Armageddon. In **Revelation 6:4** John the beloved apostle says there's a red horse, **"and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth."** **We're not going to have peace — permanent peace — until the Prince of Peace comes.** He is coming!

Conclusion:

One of these days the sky is going to break open and the Lord Jesus Christ will come back. He will set up His reign upon this planet, and we're going to have peace and social justice. What a wonderful time that's going to be! Isaiah predicted,

"The government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end" (Isaiah 9:6-7). Think of it: no fighting, no war, no hatred, no violence. It will all be peace.