

## The Everlasting Covenant of Peace: 3

### A Covenant of Safety and Protection

#### Isaiah 54.10

“For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,” Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.”

In this series so far we have seen that God's Covenant of Peace is a Blood-Covenant, paid for with the blood of Jesus. This covenant cannot be broken or annulled, the Bible calls it an Everlasting Covenant.

Last week we touched on the meaning of this word peace. The Hebrew word *shalom* has a number of various meanings, but the main context of *shalom* is that of completeness and wholeness – nothing lacking. If we break down *shalom* into its variant meanings we see that it includes and encompasses:

- ⤴ safety & protection
- ⤴ soundness of mind
- ⤴ forgiveness of sin
- ⤴ man's welfare and well-being
- ⤴ health & healing
- ⤴ prosperity
- ⤴ contentment
- ⤴ fullness
- ⤴ relationships and friendships – in particular covenant relationship with God
- ⤴ rest
- ⤴ peace – absence of strife, rest from war
- ⤴ restoration
- ⤴ recompense & reward

The Greek counterpart of *shalom* is *eirene*; whilst it also means to be at peace, the main emphasis of *eirene* in the New Testament is concerned with our relationship with God. However it also encompasses man's safety, security, prosperity and felicity [OED – intense happiness, joy].

Over the next few weeks we are going to look at some of these definitions and see from the Scriptures that God has made a covenant for our wholeness – our total well-being, spirit, soul and body.

To begin with we shall look at how the Covenant of Peace ensures our safety and protection.

A covenant was often cut between nations to ensure the protection of the weaker. In the Scriptures we see this happen on several occasions.

#### Joshua 9.1-15

(v2) Joshua was beginning to conquer the land. Jericho had fallen, so had Ai. News of this spread to the nations around. Fearful that they would lose their lands to Joshua, they conspired with one another to come and attack Joshua.

(v3-14) Certain men of Gibeon acted craftily and pretended to be ambassadors from a far country and came to Joshua to make a covenant with him.

(v15) So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant to let them live. This peace was their protection and safety from the avenging armies of Israel.

(v18) The children of Israel did not attack them because of their covenant of peace they had made with Joshua.

In Joshua 10, the king of Jerusalem seeks help from the surrounding kings to attack Gibeon because of their treaty with Joshua. They march on the city.

The Gibeonites call on Joshua to fulfil his covenant role. Joshua attacks and protects the inhabitants of Gibeon. (Joshua 10.7-11)

### **Judges 18.6**

Here is an account where some men of Dan were seeking a place to settle. Five of them enter Micah's house and take his idol. When the priest saw what was happening, they asked him to inquire of the Lord

(vs6) Go in peace (shalom). The presence of the Lord be with you on your way.

*"The LORD is taking care of you on this trip"* (TEV)

*"Go in peace. The way in which you go is before (under the eye of) the Lord"* (AMP)

(vs27-29) The people of Laish had "no ties with anyone". They were without a covenant and because of which there was no deliverer to protect them.

### **Job 5.23-24**

In the midst of his troubles, Job is told to seek God's help. Eliphaz says to him that he has a covenant and that he shall be at peace. Because of the covenant nothing can touch his dwelling.

*"For you will be in agreement with the stones of the earth, and the beasts of the field will be at peace with you. And you will be certain that your tent is at peace, and after looking over your property you will see that nothing is gone"* (BBE)

(vs24) *"Your home will be secure, and your sheep will be safe"* (CEV)

David also recalls the protection that comes from the Covenant of Peace

**Psalm 4.8** - *"When I lie down, I go to sleep in peace; you alone, O LORD, keep me perfectly safe"* (TEV)

*"I fall asleep in peace the moment I lie down because you alone, O LORD, enable me to live securely"* (GW)

**Psalm 55.18** - *“He redeems my soul in safety from the battle that I wage, for many are arrayed against me”* (ESV)

*“He has taken my soul away from the attack which was made against me, and given it peace”* (BBE)

**Psalm 91** is a psalm of protection and deliverance, it tells how God protects and keeps those who are under the covenant of peace safe and secure.

Shadow – shade, covering, shelter.

In Psalm 17.8 David uses the term 'hide me under the shadow of your wings' – bring me into your protective care.

David begins this psalm by declaring that the Lord is a refuge and fortress. God is a refuge, He is a Rock, a Fortress – we can run to Him and be safe. That's what the Covenant of Peace affords.

### **Isaiah 59.19-21**

*“...When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.... (21) ‘As for Me’ says the Lord ‘this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you.....”*

When the enemy comes in – the Spirit of God lifts up the standard against him because we have the Spirit of God with us – part of the covenant of protection.

Lift up a standard.. military term meaning to go to war. The implication of this statement is that the Spirit will cause the enemy to take flight, flee, be driven away. In other words He will come to our aid in our moment of attack

When the enemy comes – the Spirit of God, like the waters of a flood, rises up against him.

Isaiah 48.18

*“Oh, that you had heeded My commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea”*

### **Philippians 4.7**

Let's finish where we left off last week - The apostle Paul also encouraged the church at Philippi when they were facing needs, problems and difficulties of their own. He told them not to be anxious but to bring their needs to God in prayer. Then he went on to say that the peace of God would protect and guard their hearts and minds.

Guard – to set a garrison, to set watch, to hem in, protect.

Peace will bring safety and protection from the onslaught of anxiety and the pressures of daily needs.

The Covenant of Peace is your Covenant of Protection.