

The Everlasting Covenant of Peace: 9

A Covenant of Fullness of Life

Isaiah 54.10

Over the last few months we have been going through this series on the Covenant of Peace. We have been basing this series of studies on the meanings of the word *shalom*, translated as peace in our verse and through the Old Testament.

Through these studies we have seen that the Covenant of Peace is a covenant of blessing and life prosperity including health and healing, material prosperity, soundness and clarity of mind, safety and protection, rest and contentment in the midst of life's trials and storms.

One important thing we saw was that this Covenant of Peace is an everlasting covenant, that means that it is still in force today – we can appropriate the benefits of the covenant today. We can lay claim to the benefits of health and healing, material prosperity, soundness of mind and so on.

Another important thing about this Covenant is that it is a blood-covenant – it was ratified with the blood of Jesus. Jesus took the chastisement so that we could have peace – he took the stripes, the curse of sin, death and hell so that we could have a prosperous life living in the benefits of this covenant. We can enter into that covenant through faith in the finished work of Calvary.

Today we are going to look at just one more of those meanings: *shalom* is fullness.

We can understand fullness to mean a variety of things. It can mean:

- to fill up or make full
- abundance
- to be satisfied
- perfect or make whole
- completed or finished

Another understanding of fullness is to do with time. This word is often used in the Bible in relation to time. For example:

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” Galatians 4.4

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place” Acts 2.1

“And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.” Exodus 7.25 (KJV)

And this is our focus for this study. As we go through the Scriptures we are going to see that the Covenant of Peace is a covenant that fills our life with time – or we could put it another way: The Covenant of Peace is a covenant of fullness and longevity of life.

Psalm 91.11-14

“With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.” (v16)

God promises long life to the one who has set his heart on God (v14). God will satisfy him with a long life and show him His salvation -

“For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.” (v11)

He gives His angels charge of him to protect him, to keep him and give him a life that is full of days.

It is not just about living long, but living a full life.

We use the terminology '*live life to the full*' this means that we live our lives with meaning and purpose. Especially where the kingdom of God is concerned.

The Bible tells us to “*redeem the time because the days are evil*” (**Ephesians 5.16**). In these last days we are to live our lives, making the most of every opportunity to live purposefully and meaningfully for the Lord. That is living a full life – knowing that you've accomplished what God purposed for you.

Some people in the Bible lived long lives, but we don't know much about them apart from the very little that the Bible tells us, eg Methuselah (969 years). Others lived much shorter lives but the Bible records that they lived to a good old age and full of days. They lived out the purpose of God for their life.

Abraham – died at 175 years

Genesis 15.15

“Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age”

- What a beautiful statement – “*you shall go to your fathers in peace.. at a good old age*”
God promises Abraham that His covenant of peace would bring him a full life. He would die at a good old age, he would go in peace.

Genesis 25.8

“Then Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people”

- Abraham breathed his last, he died at a good old age – full of years.
- Abraham, the man of faith, who lived out God's purpose for him and became the father of many nations.

David – died at 70 years

1 Chronicles 29.28

“So he died in a good old age, full of days and riches and honor; and Solomon his son reigned in his place”

- David died in a good old age, full of days. Israel's greatest king, a man after God's own heart.
- Yes he had his faults and failings but he accomplished all that God had purposed for him.

Gideon – no record of his age

Judges 8.32

“Now Gideon the son of Joash died at a good old age, and was buried in the tomb of Joash his father, in Ophrah of the Abiezrites.”

- Gideon died in a good old age. Another mighty warrior of God, a mighty man of valour who defeated the Midianites.
- A man who served the purpose of God in his generation and brought peace to the land for forty years.

Jehoiada – died 130 years

2 Chronicles 24.15

“But Jehoiada grew old and was full of days, and he died; *he was one hundred and thirty years old when he died*”

- Jehoiada died and was full of days. A man that served God as High Priest, who fulfilled his purpose for God.
- His quick thinking and presence of mind spared the young child-king Joash from massacre.
- He was the longest living man since the days of Moses, by this time very few lived to such a great age.

Simeon – no record of age

Luke 2.29

““Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word;”

- Waiting in Jerusalem for the appearing of the promised Messiah was this old man Simeon. A prophet of God who had stood firm on the Word of God through a long time in Israel's history.
- Now that he had seen the Messiah he could die in peace. He had fulfilled his purpose, he had kept the spirit of prophecy alive for Israel.

Proverbs 3.1-2

“My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; For length of days and long life, and peace they will add to you.”

- If we keep the Word of God and walk in His ways we will enjoy a full life – The covenant of Peace will give us length of days and long life.

(Amp)

“MY SON, forget not my law or teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of a life [*worth living*] and tranquility [*inward and outward and continuing through old age till death*], these shall they add to you”

That's FULLNESS of Life

Job 5.26

“You shall come to the grave at a full age, As a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.”

- Shortly after everything had been taken from Job, one of his friends (Eliphaz) reminds him that he has a covenant and that he shall be at peace.
- He reminds him of some of the benefits of that covenant – you shall come to the grave at a full age, like a sheaf of grain ripens in its season.

You don't take the grain to the threshing floor while it is still green, it needs to ripen and come to fruition. When ripe it droops down ready for picking. - While there is a job to do, God will add length of days to you.

I will not die! - Psalm 118.17

"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord"

- The psalmist knew what it was like to be surrounded by trouble, with men seeking his life, but he also knew there was a work to do, so he could utter this statement. I will not die, I still have work to do for God.

Philippians 1.21-26

Paul writes here that he had an earnest desire to die and be with the Lord – but he chooses to stay because it was more needful for the church.

John Gill writes in his commentary (Psalm 91.16) *"In this world: the saints live in it as long as they choose to live; and when they come to die, be it when it will, they are, like Abraham, full of years, or satisfied with them"*

God has covenanted shalom to us and that includes a long and full life.

So why do some die early?

There is a lot of nonsense spoken at the time of a person's death, particularly if that person was young. These may include statements such as -

- God needed another angel
- God wanted to put another star to shine in the sky

A lot of people often say that it was God's timing for them, but what does the Scripture say:

Psalm 31.15

'My times are in Your hand' – does not necessarily mean that the time of our departure is foreordained. It means that our days are ordered by the Lord, we are upheld by Him, He keeps us through the seasons of life.

Ecclesiastes 3.2

"...time to die.." - again, this does not say that our time is fixed, this word is *season* (see vs1). The same word is used in Psalm 1.3.

- We have an enemy that is out to destroy us – **John 10.10**
- Some people live lives that are contrary to the word of God, and die as result – **1 Corinthians 11.27-30, Ecclesiastes 7.17**
- Some are ignorant concerning the word and their authority as believers under the covenant – **Hosea 4.6**
- Some talk themselves into an early death. God takes our confession to be what we believe. **Numbers 14.2-3, 28-29, Psalm 90.9-10**
- Some people may just lose the will to go on.
- Others are just ready to go. Their race is run and the course finished – like Simeon **Luke 2.26-32**. Whenever we die, we should die in faith pleasing the Lord.