

Peace

A state of being characterized by:

- **Wholeness** – to be sound, undamaged, undivided
- **Well-being** – welfare, (spiritual) health and prosperity
- **Harmony** – right relationship with God and with others

Based on the conviction that we've been:

- **Saved** – our enemies have been defeated
- **Adopted** – we are God's children and His heirs (our inheritance is secure)

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John the Baptist's Ministry

Prepared the way for Jesus:

- **Mal 3.1**- I will send My messenger who will prepare My way before Me
- **Isa 40.3** – A voice of one calling, 'in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord'
- **Focused on repentance** – literally, changing one's mind, but always with a corresponding change in behavior (see Lk 3.7-14)

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Preparing the way for the Prince of Peace

Isa 9.6 – For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given and the government will rest upon His shoulders. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Messiah would establish peace by:

- Defeating Israel's enemies
- Securing Israel's borders

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Preparing the way for the Prince of Peace

- **Lk 2.14** – Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests.
- Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth:
- a state of wholeness, harmony, and well-being for God's people
- that has been established through the:
 - Defeat of the enemies of the people of God
 - Securing of the inheritance of the people of God

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Jesus is the Prince of Peace

Jesus' birth leads to His death and resurrection in which:

- **Satan is defeated** – Col 2.15,
- **Death is overcome** - 1Cor 15.26
- **Our sins are forgiven** – John 1.29
- **We are given abundant life** - John 10.10

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A great enemy to Peace

- **Worry** - feeling of apprehension or distress in view of possible danger or misfortune; concern that something bad will happen in future
- **Mt 6.25** – Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.
- **Phil 4.6-7:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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Father, I confess that I'm prone to worry,
that I become apprehensive when thinking
about the future.

Jesus, I confess that I often feel like You
are asleep in the boat during the storms of
my life.

This morning I repent of my worry.
I agree with You Jesus that worry reveals
a lack of trust in the Father and I desire
to trust Him more fully.

I now cast these anxieties on You

Quietly read your notecard

because I know You care for me.



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