the GOOD () NEWS PEACE IS COMING

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 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.Of the greatness 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.



"The scarcity of peace has prompted some to suggest that 'peace is that glorious moment in history when everyone stops to reload.' With all the avowed and well-intentioned efforts for peace in modern times, few people would claim that the world or any significant part of it is more peaceful now than a hundred years ago."



"We do not have economic peace, religious peace, racial peace, social peace, family peace, or personal peace. There seems to be no end of marches, sit-ins, rallies, protests, demonstrations, riots and wars. Disagreement and conflict are the order of the day. No day has had more need of peace than our own."



Isaiah 9:6 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.



Luke 2:13-14 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others the armies of Heaven—praising God and saying, "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

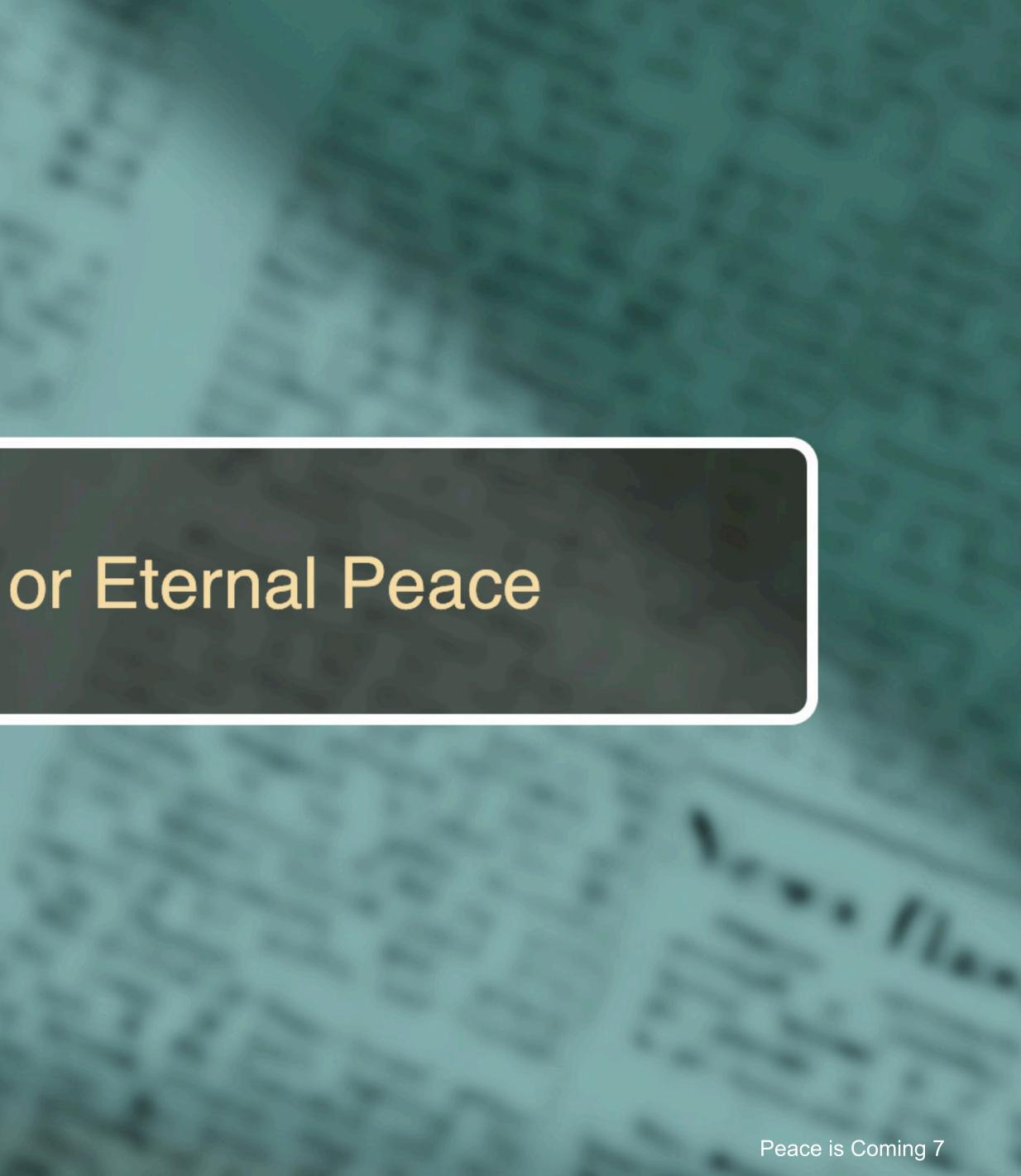


John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."





1. Spiritual Peace or Eternal Peace



Experiencing eternal peace requires a step to surrender.





Romans 5:1-10

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.



Romans 5:1-10

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.



Romans 5:1-10

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!





2. Emotional Peace or Internal Peace



Experiencing internal peace requires a step in humility.





Isaiah 26:12 Lord, You establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us.



James 4:6 God opposes the prideful but gives grace to the humble.



3. Relational Peace or External Peace





Common Humanity Justice





"When we dehumanize and demonize our opponents, we abandon the possibility of peacefully resolving our differences and seek to justify violence against them." - Nelson Mandela





Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."



External peace takes a posture of servanthood



Mark 1:28-33

The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end."



Mark 1:38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



