

Chapter 43

We're Only Trying To Get Us Some Peace

BIBLE

A sound of battle is in the land, and of great destruction.¹ “Make an uproar, you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Listen, all you from far countries: dress for battle, and be shattered! Dress for battle, and be shattered!”²

They went out, they and all their armies with them, many people, even as the sand that is on the seashore in multitude, with very many horses and chariots.³ The thing was right in the eyes of the king and of all the assembly.⁴

I saw an angel flying in mid heaven, having an eternal Good News to proclaim to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people.⁵

For I tell you, among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptizer, yet he who is least in God's Kingdom is greater than he.⁶

He was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.⁷ He said, “Come with me, and see my zeal for Yahweh.” So they made him ride in his chariot.⁸

COMMENTARY

¹ **Jeremiah 50:22** [*The “sound of battle” is the Vietnam War*]

The war in Vietnam (1955-1975) spanned the Beatles career.

² **Isaiah 8:9** Jonathan Swift:

“War! that mad game the world so loves to play.”

³ **Joshua 11:4** Bertrand Russell:

“War does not determine who is right — only who is left.”

⁴ **2 Chronicles 30:4** Carl Sandburg:

“Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come.”

⁵ **Revelation 14:6** [*The angel is John*] John: “Declare it. Just the

same way we declare war. That is how we will have peace... We just need to declare it.”

⁶ **Luke 7:28** Through his music and philosophy, John's mission was to “baptize” us, cleansing us spiritually and setting us free from limiting beliefs.

⁷ **Acts 8:28** Eckhart Tolle: “You find peace not by rearranging the circumstances of your life, but by realizing who you are at the deepest level.”

⁸ **2 Kings 10:16** Zeal is an important aspect of manifesting our desires. Emotions such as passion, enthusiasm, and excitement help to bring our intentions into being.

He said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as Isaiah the prophet said.”⁹

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.”¹⁰ Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil, but joy comes to the promoters of peace.¹¹

“My anguish, my anguish! I am pained at my very heart; my heart is disquieted in me; I can't hold my peace; because you have heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.”¹²

“My soul has had her dwelling too long with him who hates peace.”¹³ Don't envy the man of violence. Choose none of his ways.¹⁴ “There is no peace”, says my God, ‘for the wicked.’¹⁵

“A man of violence entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good.”¹⁶ An evil speaker won't be established in the earth. Evil will hunt the violent man to overthrow him.¹⁷

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.’”¹⁸ But I tell you, don't resist him who is evil; but whoever strikes you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also.¹⁹

⁹ **John 1:23**

¹⁰ **Matthew 5:9** John: “You're all geniuses, and you're all beautiful. You don't need anyone to tell you who you are. You are what you are. Get out there and get peace, think peace, and live peace and breathe peace, and you'll get it as soon as you like.”

¹¹ **Proverbs 12:20** John F. Kennedy: “Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind.”

¹² **Jeremiah 4:19**

¹³ **Psalms 120:6**

¹⁴ **Proverbs 3:31**

¹⁵ **Isaiah 57:21** John speaks out against the wicked in “Revolution”: “But if you want money for people with minds that hate, all I can tell you is brother you have to wait.”

¹⁶ **Proverbs 16:29** John: “We all have Hitler in us, but we also have love and peace. So why not give peace a chance for once?”

¹⁷ **Psalms 140:11** (traditional Native American saying) “No tree is foolish enough to have its branches fight among themselves.”

¹⁸ **Matthew 5:38**

¹⁹ **Matthew 5:39** John: “If you want peace, you won't get it with violence. Please tell me one militant revolution that worked...Count me out if it's for violence. Don't expect me on the barricades unless it's with flowers.”

“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat. If he is thirsty, give him water to drink.”²⁰

“Don't we all have one father? Hasn't one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, profaning the covenant of our fathers?”²¹ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.²²

“Deliver me, Yahweh, from the evil man. Preserve me from the violent man,”²³ those who devise mischief in their hearts. They continually gather themselves together for war.²⁴

“The arrogant shall not stand in your sight. You hate all workers of iniquity.”²⁵ They plot injustice, saying, ‘We have made a perfect plan!’ Surely man's mind and heart are cunning.”²⁶

“Take counsel together, and it will be brought to nothing; speak the word, and it will not stand: for God is with us.”²⁷ He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread, but he who chases fantasies is void of understanding.²⁸

“Depart from evil, and do good. Seek peace, and pursue it.”²⁹ There is no king saved by the multitude of an army. A mighty man is not delivered by great strength.³⁰

²⁰ **Proverbs 25:21**

²¹ **Malachi 2:10** Gandhi: “An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”

²² **Romans 8:16** The relationship that we can have with our Heavenly father is very much like that between a child and a wise, loving parent.

²³ **Psalm 140:1** Albert Einstein: “Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding.”

²⁴ **Psalm 140:2**

²⁵ **Psalm 5:5** John makes fun of the arrogant in “Hey Bulldog” : “What makes you think you're something special when you smile.”

²⁶ **Psalm 64:6** “You say you got a real solution, well, you know we'd all like to see the plan,” John tells us in “Revolution.” Even our best plans are doomed to fail when they are not part of God's will.

²⁷ **Isaiah 8:10**

²⁸ **Proverbs 12:11** In “Revolution”, John criticizes those who chase fantasies: “But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao, you ain't gonna make it with anyone anyhow.”

²⁹ **Psalm 34:14** John: “We're only trying to get us some peace.” (“The Ballad Of John And Yoko”)

³⁰ **Psalm 33:16** John: “If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace.”

“For all the armor of the armed man in the noisy battle, and the garments rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.³¹ But Yahweh is in his holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before him!”³²

“For thus said the Lord Yahweh, the Holy One of Israel, ‘You will be saved in returning and rest. Your strength will be in quietness and in confidence.’ You refused.”³³

“For my brothers' and companions' sakes, I will now say, ‘Peace be within you.’”³⁴ Mark the perfect man, and see the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.³⁵

“Don’t say, ‘I will pay back evil.’ Wait for Yahweh, and he will save you.”³⁶ Yahweh will give strength to his people. Yahweh will bless his people with peace.³⁷

“Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with you all.”³⁸

He went out from there. He came into his own country, and his disciples followed him.³⁹

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized. There were added that day about three thousand souls.⁴⁰

³¹ **Isaiah 9:5**

³² **Habakkuk 2:20** Spending time in the silence helps us to find God and develop peace of mind. Without peace of mind, peace in the outer world is not possible.

³³ **Isaiah 30:15** We have to tune out the noise of the world in order to experience the peace of God.

³⁴ **Psalms 122:8** The peace of God is within us, we just need to claim it for ourselves and for others.

³⁵ **Psalms 37:37** Deepak Chopra: “Our most important task is to transform our consciousness so that violence is no longer an option for us in our personal lives, that understanding that a world of peace is possible only if we relate to each other as peaceful beings, one individual at a time.”

³⁶ **Proverbs 20:22** Thich Nhat Hanh: “If in our daily life we can smile, if we can be peaceful and happy, not only we, but everyone will profit from it. This is the most basic kind of peace work.”

³⁷ **Psalms 29:11** John: “All we are saying is give peace a chance.” (“Give Peace A Chance”)

³⁸ **2 Thessalonians 3:16** St. Francis of Assisi: “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me sow love.”

³⁹ **Mark 6:1**

⁴⁰ **Acts 2:41** To be “baptized” is to be cleansed spiritually.