

Peace Is Beyond Us

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There is no goal more important than world peace, but it has never been achieved despite many noble efforts throughout man's history. Yes, there have been periods of regional peace and stability, but they were short-lived. Logically, there should be a blueprint that, if followed, would result in world peace, especially with the great advancements in knowledge, including science and technology, that have occurred over the past century. Despite these so-called "improvements", world peace remains elusive. Why is this the case?

The first step to answering this question requires acknowledging that our existence is intrinsically connected to a Creator who provided an instruction manual which leads to world peace if it is faithfully followed. This is the central issue as this study will show.

This instruction manual explains that worldwide peace will never be achieved unless specific steps are followed. To date, the leaders of mankind have refused to acknowledge these, or they have been selective regarding which steps they are willing to follow. As a result, their citizens have suffered the consequences (cf. Jas. 4:1-6).

The following scriptures emphasize that achieving peace begins with a proper respect toward our Creator. Having this attitude will make it easier to believe that God's word on this subject is truthful. Conversely, because the wicked do not respect their Creator they can never understand His truth.

*An oracle within my heart **concerning the transgression of the wicked: there is no fear** (deep respect) **of God before his eyes** (Ps. 36:1; cf. Rom. 3:18; NJKV used*

throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

***You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You** (Isa. 26:3; emphasis added).*

*In the last days they will be (cf. 1Tim. 3:1) always learning and **never able to come to the knowledge of the truth** (2Tim. 3:7; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Because the majority of mankind rejects God's word, which describes His blueprint for peace, they consign themselves to misery and agony in one form or another.

***Destruction and misery are in their ways; ¹⁷And the way of peace they have not known** (Rom. 3:16-17; emphasis added).*

***But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, ⁹tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil ...** (Rom. 2:8-9a; emphasis added).*

In contrast, those who live according to God's instructions experience peace; in particular "peace of mind".

***But glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good** (Rom. 2:10a; emphasis added).*

The statement regarding those who do "what is good" needs to be examined closely in order to understand what it really means because mankind's idea of what is good rarely reflects God's definition.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. ³They have all turned aside, they have together become

*corrupt; **there is none who does good, no, not one*** (Ps. 14:2-3; cf. 53:3; Mt. 19:17; Rom. 3:12; emphasis added).

This does not mean there is no one who attempts to do the right thing. Instead, it means they don't understand what God's definition of "good" really means. Because of this, everyone continues to transgress His word, including His law and commandments.

*For **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God* (Rom. 3:23; emphasis added).

By transgressing God's law and commandments, either ignorantly or on purpose, there will never be peace in families, communities, nations, or this world as a whole.

The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever (Isa. 32:17; cf. Ps. 119:172; emphasis added).

Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble (in the ultimate sense) (Ps. 119:165; emphasis added).

In our modern society today, we understand that a new appliance, vehicle, or other product usually comes with an Operator's Manual to assist the new owner in achieving optimal performance, product longevity, and avoid damage to the unit. Almighty God is no different. He provided His Operator's Manual, which is the Bible, so mankind can maximize every benefit associated with this life, while avoiding the pitfalls of breaking laws or commandments that cause harm to the operator, and those around him/her. However, time and effort are required to study it.

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be

*ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth*** (2Tim. 2:15; emphasis added).

*But he (Christ) answered and said, "It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**"* (Mt. 4:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Because there is a direct connection between obeying the laws and commandments of Almighty God and peace on earth, mankind would do well to follow them. For example, if Nazi Germany had obeyed God's law regarding the removal of a neighbor's landmark, or boundary line, they would not have annexed Poland which then precipitated the carnage of WWII.

You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set... (Dt. 19:14; cf. Prov. 22:28).

Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark... (Dt. 27:17; cf. Hos. 5:10; emphasis added).

So theft of another nation's property led to the loss of millions of lives during the Second World War. Therefore, disobeying what our Creator says results in the opposite of peace and harmony on earth.

Another form of property theft includes stealing intellectual property that may have cost the victim tremendous harm and, if it is not dealt with properly, can escalate to a serious conflict between nations.

According to some reports, Chinese IP theft has cost the United States \$225 billion to \$600 billion a year. No wonder then, that getting China to better protect IP is a point of rare consensus among both the White House and the Democratic leadership. But history tells us

to be cautious; Washington's demands are unrealistic. Countries do not enact strong IP rights systems until their ability to innovate at home displaces reliance on outside knowledge (<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/10/16/china-intellectual-property-theft-progress/>).

This is the reason that God's law exacts serious penalties for the theft of someone's livelihood. For instance, in the agrarian-based society of ancient Israel, if an ox was stolen the owner would lose the ability to plow/till his land. As this would have a very negative impact on him and his family, the penalty fit the crime.

*If a man steals an ox, and slaughters it or sells it, **he shall restore five oxen for an ox*** (Ex. 22:1; emphasis added).

This same principle should be applied to the theft of intellectual property today because the effect on the developer/owner also negatively impacts his/her livelihood. Therefore, God's penalties are designed to work as a deterrent in any generation that enacts and enforces them.

If the figures for China's intellectual theft are correct, the leadership of that country would have to compensate the United States approximately \$1.125 trillion to \$3 trillion, based on God's calculation in Exodus 22:1.

Sadly, God's laws are not acknowledged and enforced in today's "enlightened" society. If they were, everyone would benefit. The main reason they are not enacted is that the carnal mind does not trust what God says in His Operator's Manual.

*Because **the carnal mind is enmity** (hostile) **against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be*** (Rom. 8:7; Ed. note in parenthesis).

However, in every generation there are people who Almighty God has led to see His truth

accurately (Ps. 65:4 cf. Jn. 6:44; 65). These individuals understand, and trust, that obedience to God's word is the only way that peace on earth can be achieved.

You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You (Isa. 26:3; emphasis added).

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 (Isa. 48:18, 22).

The work of righteousness will be peace (cf. Ps. 119:172), *and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever* (Isa. 32:17; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In Psalm 119:172, God defines "righteousness" as trusting and obeying His laws and commandments, which means mankind can never achieve lasting peace on earth unless they follow these rules.

The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace (Isa. 59:8; emphasis added).

"There is no peace", says my God, "for the wicked" (Isa. 57:21; emphasis added).

Until the governments of this present evil age (Gal. 1:4) are removed and replaced by the government of Almighty God, under the leadership of Jesus Christ, peace on earth is just an illusion.

We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and there was trouble! (Jer. 8:15; emphasis added).

In a world that ignores God's word, disaster of one kind or another will eventually occur.

Destruction comes; they will seek peace, but there shall be none. ²⁶*Disaster will come upon disaster, and rumor (of war; cf. Mt. 24:6) will be upon rumor. Then they will seek a vision from a prophet; but the law will perish from the priest, and counsel from the elders (Eze. 7:25-26; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

Thankfully, following Christ's return to rule this planet, all children will be taught about God's laws and commandments, instead of the values espoused by the rebellious spirit being who influences them through ill-advised parents and educational institutions (2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2-3).

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. ¹⁴*In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you (Isa. 54:13-14; cf. Nah. 1:15; emphasis added).*

"The Lord", mentioned in Isaiah 54:13, is the spirit being who later became known as Jesus Christ. His heavenly Father tasked him with the responsibility of teaching the nations how to achieve peace, which is based upon obedience to the laws and commandments of God.

*With which the Dayspring (Dawn, the Messiah) from on high has visited us; ⁷⁹To give light to those who sit in darkness (Satan's many deceptions) and the shadow of death, **to guide our feet into the way of peace** (Lk. 1:78b-79; cf. Isa. 42:6-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

*I, the Lord (Almighty), have called you (Jesus Christ) in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as **a light to the***

Gentiles (Isa. 42:6; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ, who also carries the delegated title "Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6; Jer. 7:2), can only be "a light to the Gentiles" if he is teaching his Father's law and commandments because that is what is meant when the word "light" is used in scripture.

For the commandment is a lamp, and the law is light... (Prov. 6:23; emphasis added).

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Ps. 119: 105; emphasis added).

So this present evil age functions in darkness because it does not recognize the light associated with obeying God's law and commandments. As long as this continues, it will be impossible to achieve any lasting peace on earth. The real "gospel of peace" is a message that makes this connection (Eph. 6:15).

*How beautiful upon the mountains (symbol of governments) are the feet of him who brings good news (gospel), **who proclaims peace, who brings glad tidings of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*** (Isa. 52:7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Until "the Prince of Peace" returns to this planet, world peace is beyond us. It will never occur as long as the cause of peace, which is obedience to God's law and commandments, is rejected. Therefore, when any world leader states that he/she will bring peace and safety to this earth, beware because the opposite will likely occur.

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman.

And they shall not escape (1Thes. 5:3; emphasis added).

In conclusion, peace “only has a chance” if mankind makes the connection that disobeying God’s laws and commandments results in some form of conflict and/or misery. Anyone who accepts this truth can begin the process of learning to obey every word of God, which is the only pathway that leads to “everlasting peace”. However, this journey cannot progress very far without repentance of sin, because this is a prerequisite to the receipt of God’s Holy Spirit, which then enables people to understand the hidden mysteries of Almighty God (Mk. 4:11; 1Cor. 2:7-10; 1Cor. 15:51-52; Eph. 1:9; 5:32; Col. 1:26-27; 1Tim. 3:16).

*Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission (forgiveness) of sins; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**" (Ac. 2:38; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Also, Scripture makes it clear that without God’s Holy Spirit, no one can be resurrected to everlasting life/peace (Rom. 8:11).

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