

Shiloh, a peaceful or resting place

After forty years of being transported from place to place, the Tabernacle was set up in the village of Shiloh by Joshua, located some ten miles to the north of Bethel on the highway to Shechem. The resting place of the ark of the covenant stood between the “House of God” (Bethel) and the “Instruction and Strength of God” (Shechem) for some 375 years. The following scripture could not be reference to the city of Shiloh, but to the coming Messiah, the Prince of peace.

Genesis 49:10

"The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

An exceptional year is about to conclude—year 2000 BC! With world-wide extravaganzas, the inauguration of a new millennium began some 12 months ago; amid fears, extreme predictions about what these past months would bring (and strangely enough the prophets and sorcerers missed the “Presidential Election Controversy”). The roller-coaster ride of the last days of this age of Salvation can leave one gasping for breath—up and down, sideways, upside down, zig-zagging, however those who have buckled up their Holy Spirit seat belts, taken a gospel for nausea, set their minds on things above, stabilized their direction with the compass of God’s Word, will finish the ride safe and sound.

Some 6,000 years ago, after Adam and Eve chose to rebel against the word of God, God announced to Satan, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel” (Gen. 3:15). War between God and Satan had extended itself to planet earth. Adam opened the door and peace was taken from the earth.

Before the book of Genesis ended, spanning some 2000 years, Jacob prophesied that the tribe of Judah would be the dominate one until “Shiloh” came, or the Messiah of Peace and Rest. In the beginning of Genesis, Cain murdered his brother Abel, then after a millennium of world-wide corruption and tyranny, God destroyed the world with a great flood, afterwards came Nimrod, “a mighty hunter before (against) the Lord”, who was the father of the ancient mystery cults, and finally, before the historic record of Genesis closed, God promised that a Messiah of Peace and Rest would come.

The prophecy of about **Shiloh**, a place of rest and peace, can be compared to the “Prince of Peace” mentioned in Isaiah 9:6: “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, **and Prince of Peace.**”

After four millenniums of war, death, pain, and incessant torment, the angel of the Lord announced, “Today in the city of David (Bethlehem) there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord,” and suddenly the heavens were filled with a melodious sound of an angelic choir, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14).

The “Prince of peace”, the Messiah of Israel and the world, came in the form of a baby. As Jesus grew into manhood, the world remained in the vise-grips of war, death, pain and torment. Joseph, avoiding the slaughter of the babies in Bethlehem by King Herod, escaped into Egypt. Around thirty years later, the leaders of Israel condemned Jesus to die the death of a criminal on the roman cross, who they supposed to be a threat to their national peace. How can the prophecy of Genesis and Isaiah be reconciled with the life of Jesus and his cruel death? The Peace-bringer and the Peace-maker was put to death. Were the prophecies in error?

According to the Scriptures, Jesus arose from the dead and was elevated to throne-ship in the heavens, yet war, death, pain and torment continued on the earth. The world has continued to blame God for the wars, diseases, and plagues. Is Jesus the “Prince of Peace” or is He the greatest imposter of all history?

It must be understood that Jesus as the Messiah born in Bethlehem never intended to bring political peace upon the earth; rather He came to do the will of His Father. It was in His eternal plan to establish “the kingdom of heaven” upon the earth, not on the soil of political ambitions, but in the “spirits” of human beings. His kingdom is not of this world; rather it is in the dimension of the Spirit. The kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of God cannot co-exist in this world in peace. Between the two, peace cannot be negotiated because God will not compromise His integrity and character. How can evil and good co-exist with one another in peace? One of the kingdoms must be removed!

The removal process began with the coming of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, His death and His resurrection. Jesus, the King of Peace, exalted in the heavens, sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of believers. God has chosen to settle the war on the inside of man first, then afterwards on the outside. “For He Himself is our peace...” (Ephes. 2:14), “for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17), “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,” (Galatians 5:22), “And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...” (Col. 3:15), “For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace” (Romans 8:6), and “Now may the Lord of peace Himself continually grant you peace in every circumstance...” (2Thes. 3:16)!

Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). Again He says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. (John 14:27). Jesus came to bring peace in the heart, not for the political world. The war between God and Satan will rage until God's purpose of developing His kingdom in the hearts of believers is complete. When that level of maturity comes to the kingdom of God, the church, then the divine shout and the trumpet will be heard, the dead in Christ shall arise from the dead, and those who are alive will join the resurrected and together meet the Prince of peace in the air.

The “Bethlehem Messiah” will appear the second time for those who eagerly await Him, not in reference to sin, but in reference to judgment. Satan, whose heart is for war, death, disease, and torment, will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire.

God is not to be blamed for war, disease and pain. It is the direct work of Satan. The Prince of peace is poised, ready to receive His bride and ready to judge the devil. Then, truly, peace will reign in the universe.

Leon C Willis