

PRINCE OF PEACE

Isaiah 9:2-7

Isaiah 11:1-9

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What does peace mean to you? How do you define it?
- Where do you think peace is needed today—in your life, in our world?

Most of us know what it feels like to long for peace—either in our personal lives, our relationships, our communities, or in the world around us. And with all the brokenness, turmoil, pain, and injustice present in our world, it can sometimes feel easier to let despair set in than to hope for peace. But the Bible assures us that our hope is not vain, that peace is coming. Study Isaiah's messianic prophecy and discover why his declaration of a coming Prince of Peace points us to the eternal peace that has come and will prevail through Jesus Christ.

Listen: Prince of Peace

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 2, host Scott Hoezee reflects on the image of the peaceable kingdom from Isaiah chapter 11, "It is not just an absence of fighting; it is the existence of every creature and every person being in a whole web of mutually edifying relationships." Does this image of kingdom peace give you hope and encouragement? If so, in which areas of your life? Why?
- Where do you see glimpses of shalom today? What reminds you that God is not dead and peace will prevail?
- In segment 3, host Dave Bast defines hope as "faith looking forward..." Consider the areas in your life or
 in our world, that need kingdom peace. What hope do you have for those situations and relationships as
 you look toward the future? How can you envision God breaking into those situations?
- How can you be an agent of God's peace and a participant in God's ministry of reconciliation today in a world that desperately needs shalom?

Related Passages

- Luke 2:14
- Genesis 49:10
- Matthew 7:28-29
- Isaiah 30:19-21

Conclusion

Write down the promises from Isaiah 9 and 11 discussed in this episode. Pray over them. Remember to give thanks that the darkness is temporary; seek the Lord's strength to get through any tumultuous times or spaces in your life.

Place the promises that you wrote down in a location where they might surprise you at a time when you need to read them.

Lastly, pray for the Spirit to stir God's promises in your heart this Christmas season. Share the promises with those around you that may need to hear them and ask how you can be praying for peace in their life. If you're willing, offer to pray right then and there with them. Otherwise, take notes and set a reminder to pray so you don't forget!

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