

The Messiah: Exploring the Covenant of Peace

Place: St John Prospect, KY

Text: Isaiah 9:6-7

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By Dr. Alvarez

Introduction:

Dear brothers and sisters, today we gather to explore the profound covenant of peace established by the Messiah, who's coming was foretold by the prophets and fulfilled in Jesus Christ. As we delve into the scriptures, particularly **Isaiah 9:6-7**

Isaiah 9:6-7:

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.
7 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.

1 John 5:1-12,

6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son.

10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

We will unravel the divine plan of salvation, and the covenant promises that God has made with humankind throughout history. From the covenant with Adam to the establishment of the New Covenant through the Messiah, we witness the unwavering love and grace of God and the manifestations of His covenant with us.

Key Point 1: The Covenant Journey with Humankind

We embark on a journey through the seven covenant manifestations of God with humankind, each revealing His love, grace, and unchanging commitment to His creation.

1. The Covenant with Adam: From the beginning, God made a covenant with Adam, promising love, grace, and His omnipresent existence. This covenant demonstrated God's love and grace, laying the foundation for subsequent covenantal relationships.

2. The Covenant with Noah: Through the covenant with Noah, God showcased His commitment to the community of His creation, preserving life and demonstrating His grace and mercy.

3. The Covenant with Abraham: God's covenant with Abraham emphasized His love, grace, and the promise of a covenant community, showcasing His faithfulness and care for His people.

4. The Mosaic Covenant: The covenant given through Moses embodied God's love, grace, and provision of wisdom through the Scriptures, guiding the covenant community in righteousness and holiness.

5. The Davidic Covenant: God's covenant with David highlighted His love, grace, and commitment to justice and righteousness, laying the groundwork for the establishment of an eternal kingdom.

6. The Messiah's New Covenant of Peace: The ultimate manifestation of God's covenant with humankind is found in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. His birth, life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah, bringing forth a new covenant sealed with His holy blood. Through this covenant, God offers holiness, wisdom, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, empowering us to walk in righteousness and to be agents of justice and grace in the world.

7. The Covenant of Creation: This foundational covenant underscores all ten elements of God's covenant with humankind. God's love and grace in creating the world, the gift of the Holy Spirit sustaining all life, the call to holiness, the wisdom found in creation, and the establishment of a harmonious community all point to the ultimate desire for shalom—peace in God's original design for creation.

Key Point 2: The Fulfillment of God's Covenant Promises

The Messiah's covenant brings forth a community of believers, bound together by the Scriptures and called to embody shalom—peace—in their lives. This covenant reflects God's ultimate design for humanity: to dwell in love, harmony, and wholeness, walking in humility and wisdom. As recipients of this covenant, we are commissioned to pursue justice, extend grace, and foster a community built on the foundation of peace.

In summary, the continuity and interconnectedness of the seven covenants with the ten elements of God's covenant with humankind reveal the comprehensive nature of God's redemptive plan and His covenantal relationship with humanity throughout history.

Call to Action

As we consider this covenant of peace during the Advent season, let us respond by embracing the love and grace extended to us, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our actions. Let us actively seek justice, practice righteousness, and cultivate humility and wisdom in our interactions with

others. May we foster a community characterized by shalom, promoting peace and wholeness in our families, churches, and beyond.

Conclusion

From the covenant with Adam to the establishment of the New Covenant through the Messiah, we witness the unwavering love and grace of God and the manifestations of His covenant with us.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for the covenant of peace established through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. As we depart from this place, may Your love and grace sustain us, and may Your Spirit empower us to live as agents of Your peace in the world. Guide our steps, O Lord, that we may reflect the holiness and wisdom of Your covenant. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Benediction:

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May His covenant of peace dwell richly within you, empowering you to walk in love, grace, and righteousness. As you go forth, may you be instruments of His peace, bearing witness to the covenant promises fulfilled in the Messiah.