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**Master, The Tempest is Raging**

*Master, the tempest is raging!  
The billows are tossing high!  
The sky is o'er-shadowed with blackness,  
No shelter or help is nigh;  
Carest Thou not that we perish?  
How canst Thou lie asleep,  
When each moment so madly is threat'ning  
A grave in the angry deep?*

*Master, with anguish of spirit  
I bow in my grief today;  
The depths of my sad heart are troubled;  
O waken and save, I pray!  
Torrents of sin and of anguish  
Sweep o'er my sinking soul!  
And I perish! I perish, dear Master;  
O hasten, and take control!*

*Master, the terror is over,  
The elements sweetly rest;  
Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored,  
And heaven's within my breast.  
Linger, O blessed Redeemer,  
Leave me alone no more;  
And with joy I shall make the blest harbor,  
And rest on the blissful shore.*

**Chorus:**  
*The winds and the waves shall obey Thy will,  
Peace, be still! (Peace be still!)  
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea,  
Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,  
No water can swallow the ship where lies  
The Master of ocean and earth and skies!  
They all shall sweetly obey Thy will,  
Peace, peace, be still!*

**WORDS: Mary A. Baker  
MUSIC: H. R. Palmer**



**WHERE IS PEACE?**

In the world we live in, there is little in the way of peace. In this country, many are stridently fighting for their "rights." At the same time, some are fighting to restrict the rights of others. Parents are fighting to keep immoral, unhealthy things out of schools' curriculum. Politicians fight each other's ideologies. Parents fight each other, and children fight parents. Insidious diseases strike with little distinction between the aged and the very young. *Where is peace?*

On September 11, 2021, we observed the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the horrible terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a hijacked plane that crashed into a Pennsylvania countryside.

For the Greatest Generation, their historical milestone was Pearl Harbor. For most adults today, our milestone is September 11. Since the attacks in 2001, we have fought two wars connected with those attacks. We are now out of both Iraq and Afghanistan; but terror still exists, and evil still strikes innocent people. *Where is peace?*

Who can forget the horrifying sight of people in Afghanistan running alongside a huge transport plane, clinging to any handhold they could find, fighting to escape and save themselves from the Taliban. A few managed to hold on long enough to become airborne, but they soon fell to their deaths. Day after day, thousands of desperate people crowded around the Kabul airport for their chance to escape the country. Some were successful; most were not. We saw sickening brutality against anyone targeted by the Taliban as they went house to house killing people who helped America in any way. *Where is peace?*

More recently, Ukraine was invaded by a maniacal dictator of a neighboring country. Ukrainian cities were

decimated. Apartment complexes were bombed and left burning. Hospitals were targeted and shelled. Hundreds of children died along with adults. Hundreds of thousands of women and children fled to neighboring countries while their husbands and fathers picked up arms to defend their country. How many thousands of widows and fatherless children will be left to rebuild their lives without their husbands and fathers? *Where is peace?*

Closer to home, inflation is soaring along with higher prices for food, clothing, gasoline, and heating fuel. Politicians posture and blame everyone else for all the problems. Homelessness is on the rise, and drug and alcohol abuse are rampant. Innocent babies are being aborted every day. It seems the whole world will descend into an abyss. *Where is peace?*

Our world is crazy these days, but it has been since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Paul lived in a time of hardship. He personally experienced persecution, deprivation, and imprisonment. Despite it all, he was at peace near the end of his life when he wrote, *"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing."* (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Shortly before He died on the cross, Jesus reassured His disciples in John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to*



*you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* Jesus also said in

John 16:33: *"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."*

Paul often opened his letters with peace, as in these words in 2 Corinthians 1:2, *"Grace to you and peace..."* He also wrote in Philippians 1:2, *"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."* He closed many of his letters with peace. Colossians 3:15 is one example: *"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."* Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:2,

*"May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."*

*Where is peace?* Peace is in belonging to God, trusting in Him, and leaning on Him. Peace is in setting our minds on the Spirit. *"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."* (Colossians 3:1-4).

Peace is in going to my quiet place and reading His word. Peace is in pouring out my heart to Him. Peace is serving Him and our fellow man. Peace is in Jesus, *"<sup>1</sup>Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* (John 14:1-3).

*"<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "<sup>4</sup>Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."* (Revelation 21:3-4)

**That** will be where we find true peace. That will be peace forevermore.

Evelyn Waite, Rolla, Missouri



### The Path to Peace

A friend gave me a plaque with the word *shalom* on it. One of my favorite gifts, it hangs in the main hallway in our home. *Shalom* is the Hebrew word translated as peace, and means completeness, soundness, and wellbeing.

In Jewish culture, people used *shalom* to greet one another, meaning may you be well. Peace - we all want it, but can we really have peace?

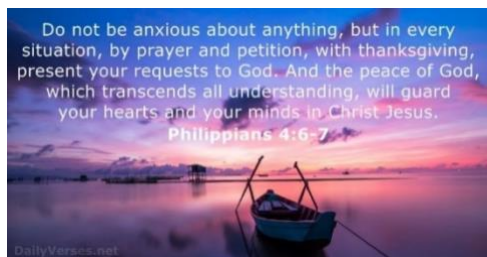
Early in 1 Samuel, we meet Hannah, one of Elkanah's wives. The Lord has closed her womb. Her infertility results in continual bullying by her rival Peninnah. Scripture says she weeps, is not eating, calls herself miserable, is deeply troubled, and in anguish and grief. Hannah is a woman without peace.

Her troubled situation drives her to the Lord. Pouring out her soul to the Lord, she tells Eli, "I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." Eli tells Hannah to go in peace (*shalom*). Does she?

Can the anxiety she experiences here, and most likely has plagued her for years, suddenly disappear? Leaving Eli, nothing has really changed. She does not have an answer to her prayer of wanting a son. She is not pregnant.

Yet, something has changed. Scripture tells us "She went her way, ate something and her face was no longer downcast." These words lead us to believe that indeed, something has changed. She now experiences peace. Hannah chooses prayer. Taking her problems to God, trusting Him as she pours out her soul, she finds peace. Prayer is the path to peace.

The Apostle Paul writes, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with



thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7).

Many who are anxious, troubled, stressed, worried, burdened, or depressed will try and seek peace by shopping, eating, sleeping, vacationing, taking pills or other medication. The path Paul advises is the same path Hannah took. It led Hannah out of anxiety and into peace.

Robert Frost's famous poem, "Two Roads" ends with this verse:

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in wood and I,

I took the one less traveled by  
And that has made all the difference.

Take the path of prayer. It leads to peace. It is the path that will make a difference!

Sally Shank, Edmond, Oklahoma

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## Peace That Transcends

Society's definition of peace is "the absence of war," but the world has never known that kind of peace. There have always been wars and rumors of wars somewhere in the world. Selfishness is rampant, so evil people are always plotting to take something that doesn't belong to them. An example is Ahab coveting Naboth's vineyard, which led to Naboth's death. Today, in another example, the Russian president is coveting Ukraine and possibly other small countries. Evil people are never satisfied nor grateful for what they have.

Stirring up strife is Satan's forte. There will never be "world peace" as long as the earth stands because Satan is always working, "like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8). That doesn't mean we should ever stop praying for world peace and the rulers of the world. Satan considers himself the master ruler, but he only has as much power as we give him. We keep praying because only God can change hearts.

In my past, I was an anxiety-filled person when things were happening to me, my children, or in the world. I didn't handle it very well. I would often forget to pray about it, and the situation would be overwhelming. When I came to my senses and thought to pray, the situation was still there, but with God in the picture, I could handle it much better. I learned to live a much simpler life and give it *all* up to Him. That kind of peace is what the Father wants for His children. It is very freeing to trust in the Lord about everything.

The world's way is hostility, anxiety, hopelessness, and fear. The peace that "passes all understanding" can only come through Jesus Christ. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

I like the word, "transcendence." It means "beyond all understanding." Humans will never understand the holiness, the righteousness, the transcendence of God until we see Him face to face. He is way beyond! Yet He

is so close to His children, and the peace we can have through Him is “way beyond” what we can ever imagine.

In John 14:27, Jesus says, “Peace I leave with you, my



peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”  
What a comfort!

When we look around us by taking our eyes off Jesus, we will be overwhelmed. Keep looking up! Let us never take our eyes off Him.

Mary Anna Melton, Rolla, Missouri



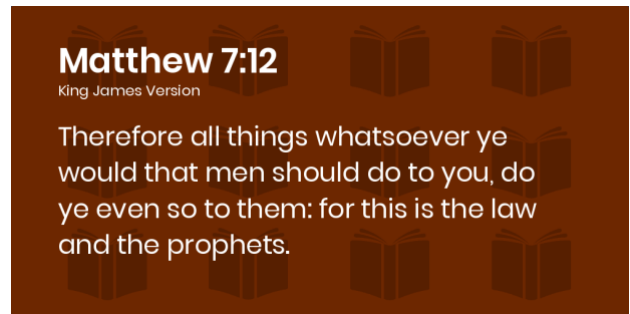
### Peace

What does the word peace mean to you? In our world full of war and unrest, do you think peace is even possible? I think so. Jesus said in, John 14:27, “Peace I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor fearful.”

What does that mean? Even when Jesus lived, the world was full of unrest and insecurity. Roman soldiers could demand anything and expect it to be fulfilled. Nobody was assured of physical safety at any given time. We as a nation are reeling from a recent school shooting. How can the parents of those children find any peace? How can our Christian brothers and sisters in Ukraine find any peace as they are huddled in underground shelters or running for their lives toward a distant border? There has always been turmoil of some sort in the world. How could Jesus say he leaves us peace in such situations?

First, he said it was not as the world gives. Thus, his peace must be beyond the physical, so what is it? Dictionary.com defines peace as mental calm; serenity. Is that calm possible in the midst of chaos and tragedy? I say it is, but it only comes with a mature faith. If we truly believe Jesus came to save us from our sins and he has returned to heaven to prepare a place for us, then we can have peace. We can rest assured that no matter what happens to us here on this earth we will be fine in the

ultimate outcome. If I live, I am at peace with God. If I die, I will be with God. All is well either way.



Dictionary also gives us another definition of peace: freedom from dispute or dissension between individuals or groups. Jesus also gave us the means to accomplish that sort of peace. He gave us the golden rule in Matthew 7:12, “In everything, therefore, treat people the same way you want them to treat you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Beyond that, in Matthew 18 he gave instructions on how to resolve differences. <sup>15</sup> “Now if your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup> But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that on the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be confirmed. <sup>17</sup> And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.”

If we follow the directions for how to have peace with our fellow man and we believe the promises Jesus gave us, how can we not rest at peace? We of all people are most blessed.

By Wilburta Arrowood, Napoleonville, Louisiana



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