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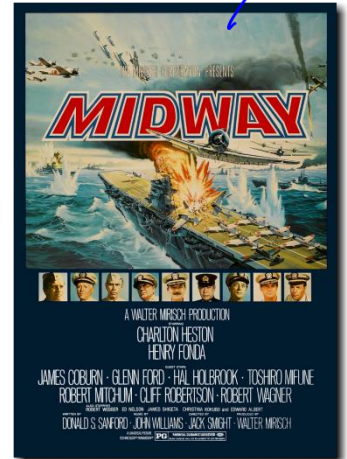
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FAITH OUTREACH CENTER DEVOTIONAL  BIBLICAL NOTIONS OF PEACE

April 2, 2024 – Comparing Four Types of Peace by the Lord God

Peace is Not Always Peace—

In the 1976 movie *Midway*, an investigative officer interrogates the father of his son's girlfriend, a Japanese national living in Hawaii. "Who do you want to win this war?" he asked. The father replied, "When your mother and father are fighting, you don't want one to win, you want them to stop fighting." And, so it is with us. Yet, peace is elusive. And, war is enticing.



Wars are important. They display the best, and worst, of humanity. But, our heroes are too often nominated from war. We kill for land; we kill to defend "our land." We kill for resources; we kill to keep "our resources." We kill to get stuff; we kill to protect our family. Wars are part of who we are. Wars always seem to be with us; and so they are according to the Christ. When asked for indications of when He'll be returning, the end of the age as it were, He said:

...Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, "I am the Christ," [Ἐγώ εἶμι ὁ Χριστός] and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains. –Matthew 24:4-8

What is Our Role as Peacemakers?

- ✂ Yeshua told us we will be closer to the Lord God if we seek peace (Matthew 5:9).
- ✂ James asserted peacemakers raise a "harvest of righteousness" (James 3:18).
- ✂ We are to "make every effort to live in peace with all..." (Hebrews 12:14)
- ✂ We are promised joy if we "promote peace" rather than "plot evil" (Proverbs 12:20)

Yet, peace eludes us—war alludes righteousness.

- ✂ A few reasons for this propensity— We love to argue. We love to "be right." We love the self-affirmation and others' affirmation which come from "winning the argument" or "defending one's country," or "capturing their flag" or "protecting the father/mother land."
- ✂ Peace means different things to different people. For the character in *Midway*, it meant "no fighting." For the warrior, peace means achieving an objective, a fulfilled mission. For the business person, peace is steady cash flow, steady growth, and steady profit expectations. For the photographer, peace is a client who cries over his/her work, and gladly pays the fees. For the professor, peace is when all students who should get an "A" do so.

But as Yogi Berra said in 1957, "If you don't know where you're goin', you'll probably get there." Just what kind of peace are we seeking? The type determines our strategy, and thus our fulfillment of the LORD'S command to be peacemakers. There are four kinds of "peace" spoken of in Scripture. Let us consider each before claiming we truly understand "peace." Using four different language terms to delineate each of the four, we see:

- A. *pax*—the Latin word designating the absence of conflict. Peace is making sure the two parties do not war against each other as in "Do war no more."
- B. εἰρήνην (aye-ray'nain)—the Greek word for equilibrium; i.e., putting things back the way they were. Peace is reconciling two parties to a previous state of balance and harmony, as in "Now you give your brother back his toy."
- C. *islam*—the Arabic word for peace through submission. Peace comes from all submitting to the sovereign authority, as in "... a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter..."
- D. *shalom*—the Hebrew word designating a sense of holistic well-being. Peace is having everything together in its right place as in "God is in His heaven and all is right with the world" (Robert Browning)



EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF PEACE IN SCRIPTURE

"Shalom"

- ✓ [quoting the LORD God] "I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove savage beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country. –Leviticus 26:6
- ✓ [speaking to Isaiah] "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "There will be peace and security in my lifetime." –Isaiah 39:8

"Aye-ray'-nain" (εἰρήνη)

- ✓ Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn friendship with each other in the name of the LORD, saying, 'The LORD is witness between you and me, and between your descendants and my descendants forever.' " Then David left, and Jonathan went back to the town. –1 Samuel 20:42
- ✓ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through Him [the Christ] to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. –Colossians 1:19-20

"Islam"

- ✓ At that time they struck down about ten thousand Moabites, all vigorous and strong; not a man escaped. That day Moab was made subject to Israel, and the land had peace for eighty years. –Judges 3:29-30
- ✓ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
–Revelation 19:13-16

"Pax"

- ✓ [One of God's rules for war.] If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city. –Deuteronomy 20:12