

REAL PEACE

Micah 5: 1-6

WE all want peace! the question is what KIND of peace?

Premise the absence of war does not = REAL Peace

Examples **Internationally:**

1919 Treaty of Versailles & League of Nations imposed Draconian measures on Germany. There was an artificial peace but tensions simmered under the surface that led to national depression at many levels sowing the seeds for the rise of Hitler the Nazi party and thus WW2

1949 Paris Pans Treaty led to 11 enforced Border changes in Europe which created **Yugoslavia** a communist state or 6 republics held together by Marshall Tito a faux peace. When Tito dies the simmering, racial tensions explode into the horrible atrocities of the 1990s Balkan Conflicts.

Africa Late 1950s onwards: Shaking off the shackles of Imperialism, post-independence there have been 48 + Conflicts and Civil wars as tribal rivalries rise to the surface and fight for control & supremacy.

Example : **Marriage**

Everyone brings a suitcase of themselves into the relationship, if the suitcase of issues is not unpacked and lovingly, willingly and openly dealt with, eventually the “Hinges” Snap, the “lock” bursts and the relationship is destroyed.

Example: **Churches**

Issues arise which can lead to a church split a Pastor Leaves there is a seeming resolution but true reconciliation has not taken place, a new Pastor is installed but the tensions merely sleep waiting to awaken and destroy the new leader.

Illus BJP “Healing Church Seminar” failed “Participants issues unwilling to let go”.

Example: **Individuals**

The Bible states that left to its own devices humanity is **Psalm 51:5** Conceived in sin, **Mark 7:21** our heart is a seed bed for evil thoughts/actions and that all of us **Romans 3:23** are sinful and can never attain to true righteous living that brings heart peace , a Great King once said he had it all **Ecclesiastes 1:12-18** but without God he was restless, empty with no peace.

How does the bible define Real Peace?

Real Peace is best expressed in the word: **SHALOM**

“Shalom” is taken from the root word shalom, which means, “to be safe in mind, body, or estate.” It speaks of completeness, fullness, or a type of wholeness that encourages you to give back .

*Although it can describe the absence of war, a majority of **biblical** references refer to an inner completeness and tranquillity. In Israel today, when you greet someone or say goodbye, you say, **Shalom**. You are literally saying, “**may you be full of well-being**” or, “**may health and prosperity be upon you.**”*

1: **Why** is Biblical Peace **THE** solution?

2: **Who** brings real Peace?

3: **Ways** to live out real Peace?

1: Why is Biblical peace **THE** solution?

Like Micah we long for “better days” in **Ch 2:9 & 3: 1-2** he speaks of unspeakable violence and injustice. 700 Years BC he sees the same malaise that afflicts nations today. Generations have cried like “**John Lennon**” “give peace a chance” yet still we career down the path of national Wars, Political wars, Economic Wars, Oppression, Violence Injustice, poverty abound. power & money still rule, real peace **absent**.

Centuries before God had declared over HIS creation **Gen 1:31** “God saw **ALL** that he had made, and it was **VERY** good”, BUT Humanity rebels and just a few generations later, **Gen 6:5** “God observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that **everything** they thought or imagined was **consistently and totally evil**”.

Then and now, Humanity does not live in or know “Shalom” “Real Peace” -- its self-improvement programme is flawed and **not** working.

The underlying tension of **Sin** must first be dealt with and Micah points forward 700 years to the coming of the Real Peace Giver.

Conc: To live in real peace we must acknowledge we cannot save ourselves

2: Who brings real peace?

Micah 5:1 prophesies a KING being publicly humiliated and his own nation sent **v3** into exile yet in this dark canvass GOD will send his Peace bearer.

The treaty of Versailles was signed in a magnificent place and great powers and dignitaries crowded the room, good intentions abounded YET it failed.

5:2 Micah says in an insignificant place and in human terms with no fanfare the REAL PEACE giver will come, 700 year later Jesus is born in Bethlehem **Matthew 2:1-12**, Angels sing that part of Gods favour is **Luke 2:14** Real Peace, but many missed the peace giver then and still do today.

Psalms 46:9 HE makes wars to cease internationally and breaks the bow by dealing first with the INDIVIDUAL INNER conflict and weapons.

Examp: A panicked parent cannot bring peace to a troubled child

Examp: Armistice 1918 immediately the guns stopped the birds began to sing again

We may want and long for peace at many levels, but it starts with the individual receiving the “Prince of Peace” into our life’s, we reverse the rebellion of “Eden” by putting the Creator in his rightful place.

Yes, WARS are fought over “Religion” but this is not about religion its about a “**Relationship**” with the Peace Giver.

Quote Matt Woodley “Unless I am at peace with God, I’m not part of the solution, I am part of the problem”.

BJP “To be a peace maker, I must first know the peace giver”

Conc: Christ is the Author and only giver of real peace

3: Ways to live out real peace

Peace-making begins with sharing the Gospel

Isiah 52:7 Says “How beautiful are the feet – that bring good news, who proclaim peace

2 Cort 12:9 God will use the weak and broken to bring his peace.

*Peace-making Begins at HOME*

Not an artificial peace, Husbands and wives will disagree with each other and their offspring but if Heart Peace is at the base of your home all who enter will sense it (Sin breathes out tension/atmosphere)

Heb 12:14 We must make every effort to keep the bond of peace.

Galt 5: 22 Peace is a natural outflow of the spirit led life

*We will fight oppression, injustice and poverty wherever we encounter it for these are the polar opposites of peace*

Numerous bible verses point to a practical expression of Godliness

*Peace will promote hope in others*

Like Micah it points to better days, remember his message was given in dark times with worse to come BUT an ultimate solution was coming

*All our efforts will at best be partial this side of Heaven but don't stop doing good.*

Galtn 6:9 Don't get weary in well doing, a harvest is coming

Romns 16:20 The God of PEACE will ultimately crush the one who robs man of peace

Isiah 9:6-7 Says He is the Prince of peace and will reign in peace

Conc: Live and express peace in every possible way

Sermon in a sentence

(Shalom)

**We are called and commanded to
live in and live out real peace**