

Discovering  
Jesus through  
Biblical Themes:  
**Justice & Peace**

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# *Review of last Week*

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- Justice & Righteousness in the Sermon on the Mount
- Reading different translations of Matthew 5
  - First Nations Version
- Matthew 5:10
  - Blessed are those who are persecuted for **righteousness**' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Justice & Righteousness, hand in hand
- A new “translation” of the New Testament in Native American language style



# How are **justice** and **peace** aligned?

## **Psalm 85:10**

Mercy and truth are met together;

**Righteousness and peace** have kissed each other. *(KJV)*

## **Isaiah 32**

<sup>1</sup>See, a king will reign in **righteousness** and rulers will rule with **justice**.

<sup>14</sup> The fortress will be abandoned, the noisy city deserted... <sup>15</sup> till the Spirit is poured on us from on high...

<sup>16</sup> The LORD's **justice** will dwell in the desert, his **righteousness** live in the fertile field. <sup>17</sup> The **fruit of that righteousness will be peace**; its effect will be quietness and confidence forever.

## **Romans 14:17**

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit**. *(NIV)*

# Statements on peace & justice

**Sebastian C. H. Kim** (Fuller Theological Seminary)

“Shalom [*peace in the Biblical sense*] requires the dual approach of peacemaking and justice-seeking.”

“Justice is not only fair treatment for all, but active support of the weak, oppressed, and poor.”

“That justice requires not only impartial treatment or equal opportunity is another conclusion of biblical studies. Justice is not merely a legal matter but one of active compassion.”

“Shalom is most commonly translated as peace, but it is not achievable without compassionate justice.”

# Statements on peace & justice

## **Pope Paul VI, 1965, Roman Catholic Church**

Peace is more than the absence of war: it cannot be reduced to the maintenance of a balance of power between opposing forces nor does it arise out of despotic dominion, but it is appropriately called “the effect of righteousness” ([Isa 32:17](#)).

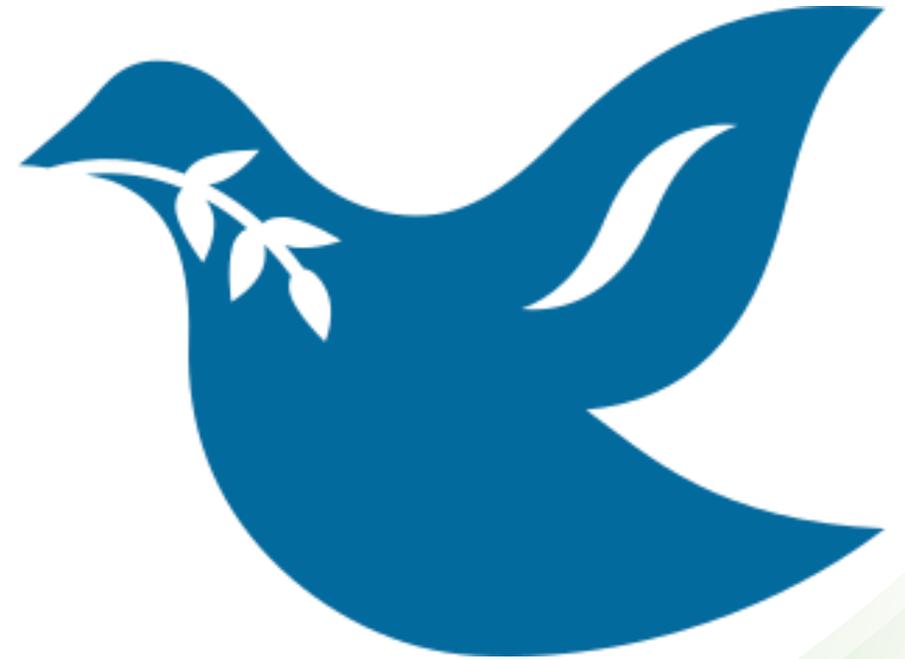
It is the fruit of that right ordering of things with which the divine founder has invested human society, and which must be actualized by man thirsting after an even more perfect reign of justice.

## **Martin Luther**

Peace is more important than all justice; and peace was not made for the sake of justice, but justice for the sake of peace.

## **Dwight Eisenhower**

Peace and justice are two sides of the same coin.



# What is the definition of the English word: **Peace?**

**1. A state of tranquility or quiet**

*Peace and order were restored to the town.*

**2. Freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions**

*My anxiousness is gone and now I have peace about the situation.*

**3. Harmony in personal relations**

*The brothers finally made peace with one another.*

**4. A state or period of mutual concord between governments**

*The War of 1812 ended with peace between Great Britain and the U.S. that continued.*

**5. A pact or agreement to end hostilities between those who have been at war or in a state of enmity**

*The 1973 Paris Peace Accords ended the Vietnam War.*

**6. Used interjectionally to ask for silence or calm or as a greeting or farewell**

*Everyone, let's have peace in this meeting!*

# Word search on “Peace”

Using an online Bible such as [BibleGateway](#)

**Peace (English word) appears in the Old Testament:**

296x in the Modern English Version

263x in the Revised Standard Version

156x in the New International Version & Common English Version

The different counts mean that “peace” is translated into different English words, depending on the context of the verses.

SHALOM = PEACE

שָׁלוֹם

*The Hebrew word for peace is much richer than the English word:*

***Peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, welfare, and more!***

Also used in greetings: ***hello*** and ***goodbye***

***First instance is Genesis 15:15 - a promise to Abraham***

***“You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age.”***

**5 variants of *shalom* in Scripture**

*English example of variant words from a root: micro – microscope, microbiology, microwave, etc.*

SHALOM = PEACE

שָׁלוֹם

*This variant in English translations of the Bible (Strong's Concordance): 236x*

*Completeness*

*Wholeness*

*Welfare or Well-being*

*Peace*

*Tranquility*

*Contentment*

*Prosperity*

*Absence of strife or war*

*Friendship*

# SHALOM = PEACE

שָׁלוֹם

***Not always translated as “peace” in English translations, but “shalom” is in the Hebrew.***

***Used in some verses to mean: “welfare or well-being”***

Genesis 43:27 (*Joseph in Egypt asking his brothers about Jacob, his father*)

- He asked them how they were, and then he said, “How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still living?” (NIV)
- He asked them about their well-being and said, “Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?” (MEV)

In Hebrew, the verse literally means: He asked them about their *shalom* and said, “ How is your father’s *shalom*?...”

# SHALOM = PEACE

שָׁלוֹם

Numbers 6:22-27 (the priestly blessing)

**God gives the blessing of shalom:**

<sup>22</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites.

Say to them:

<sup>24</sup> ““The LORD bless you

and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> the LORD make his face shine on you

and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> the LORD turn his face toward you

and give you **peace.**”

<sup>27</sup> “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

# SHALOM = PEACE

שָׁלוֹם

*Used with covenant – an agreement of peace with God*

Numbers 25:12 (Israelites turn to idols & sexual immorality with Midianites, Phinehas, a priest, is zealous for God, and God grants him a covenant of peace)

- Therefore, tell him I am making my covenant of **peace** with him. (NIV)
- So, tell him that I am making a covenant with him that is valid for all time to come. (GNT) [note that “peace” is not in this translation, but it is in the Hebrew]

SHALOM = PEACE

שָׁלוֹם

**Psalm 34:14**

Depart from evil, and do good; *seek **peace**, and pursue it.* (KJV)

**Psalm 37:11**

But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy **peace** and prosperity. (NIV)

**Isaiah 9:6**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of **Peace**.” (RSV)

שָׁלֵם

*sha-lahm*

Used 116x

**To be complete: be sound; to make whole**

**To be at peace, to live in peace**

**Often used to mean *restitution*:**

**Exodus 22:14**

"If a man borrows anything of his neighbor, and it is hurt or dies, the owner not being with it, he shall make **full restitution**.

**Joel 2:25**

"I will **repay** you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you.

***And used in the sense of without strife or war:***

**Deuteronomy 20:12**

If they refuse to make **peace** and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city.

# שָׁלֵם *Shah - laym*

Used 28x

Complete, **perfect**, whole, full, **reward**, **safe**, **peaceful**

*Examples:*

- I Kings 8:61 - Let your heart therefore be **perfect** with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.
- Ruth 2:12 - May the LORD **reward** you for your deed. May you receive a rich **reward** from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you've come to seek refuge."
- Genesis 34:21 - These men *are* **peaceable** with us; therefore, let them dwell in the land, and trade therein... [The Canaanite tribal chief Shechem tells his people to let Jacob & family stay there]

# PEACE - Shalom



Wholeness. Perfect.

Nothing missing, nothing broken.

The ideas of justice and shalom are closely linked.

Injustice is brokenness.

Justice is wholeness.

*Jesus is the Prince of Peace or the Prince of Shalom – bringing wholeness, completeness, well-being, tranquility, peace*

# שְׁלֵם *sheh - lehm*

**This variant is used in the verses about the Peace offering**

Used 87x in reference to the sacrificial system of the Torah given by God to Israelites

*Exodus 20, 24, 29, 32*

*Leviticus 3, 7, 9, 10, 17, 19, 22, 23*

*Numbers 6, 7, 10*

The Peace Offering had three purposes:

1. An act of thanksgiving
2. To fulfill a special vow
3. Free will act

# The Sacrificial Offerings

There were 5 offering types

- Burnt Offering (literally, the “*go up*” offering)
  - Every morning & evening
  - Completely burnt up – the essence of the sacrifice, in smoke, returning to God
- Gift Offering
  - Grain, fruit, vegetables (as in First Fruits)
- **Peace or Thanksgiving Offering (or Fellowship Offering)**
- Purification Offering (also called Sin Offering)
  - Unintentional sin; purification of yourself from that act of sin
- Guilt Offering
  - For unknown sins or breach of trust

*Note: there is no sacrifice for intentional sin*

# The Peace Offering

## **Also known as the Thanksgiving Offering or Goodwill offering**

- The only Offering that all share in
  - God will get a share (burnt up on the altar)
  - Priests will get a share to eat
  - Giver will get most of it and must prepare a meal with others to eat it that day, in front of the tabernacle
  - A picture of the Table of God where all participate in peace
  - Also, a picture of Sukkot – the 7<sup>th</sup> Festival of the Lord – full rejoicing

The Peace Offering = Reconciliation or Peace with God  
A Festive Meal in the presence of God – Fellowship with God

# The Peace Offering

*A Festive Meal in the presence of God – Fellowship with God*

Matthew 8:11

I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 14

**Parable of the Great Banquet**

“Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

Revelation 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

# Scripture teaches us about God's shalom

- Scripture defines the shalom from God as being
  - Welfare or well-being
  - Restitution – being made whole after loss & brokenness
  - Harmony and tranquility
  - Absence of strife or war or anger
- God's shalom is a blessing, a reality, and a promise
  - Giving us wholeness and completion
  - Giving us inner peace
  - Promising us a glorious future of perfect peace, joy, and love

# Shalom

*Nicolas Wolterstoff:*

**We must add the ideas of justice, harmony, and enjoyment to capture the full meaning of the word.**

**Shalom means just relationship (living justly and experiencing justice), harmonious relationships and enjoyable relationships.**

**Justice, harmony, and the enjoyment of God, self, others, and nature; this is the shalom that was intended for humanity to experience.**

# Next week – Last class

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Studying *Peace* in the  
Gospels & New Testament  
writings

