

Perfect Peace

by Jeremy James



Social conventions train us to understand words in a particular way. This is one reason languages evolve slowly over time. While a word may remain in the lexicon, its meaning may gradually shift. One example that readers of the KJV will recognize immediately is the word “let.” A few hundred years ago, it meant to prevent or prohibit, but today it means the opposite.

Not all changes are as radical as this, but even small changes can limit our grasp of something that was written or translated several generations ago. This is why Noah Webster compiled his famous *American Dictionary of the English Language* which was published in 1828. He could see that the language of the King James Bible, and therefore the meaning of important passages, could be affected by linguistic drift as the years passed and key words acquired additional shades of meaning, or lost shades of meaning which the KJV translators assumed would continue to be recognized by readers. Webster wanted to ensure that the words in common usage retained the meaning they had in the KJV and so he compiled definitions for his dictionary which met this requirement. His efforts in this respect were immensely valuable.

Webster also knew that the Enemy would attempt to accelerate this process of decay, that he would try to undermine the theological content of key passages in Scripture by deliberately changing the meaning of certain words. He probably suspected that future editions of the Bible would be produced for the express purpose of replacing key words with slightly less precise alternatives. How right he was!

Disclosures by Dr Richard Day

Let's consider an example. On March 20th, 1969, Dr Lawrence Dunegan attended a meeting of the Pittsburgh Pediatric Society where Dr Richard Day, after the completion of his scheduled talk, made a series of "off the record" remarks which he was sure his audience, mostly medical students, would soon forget. He asked that no-one take notes. As it happened, Dr Dunegan quietly jotted a few on a napkin and afterwards wrote out his recollection of these informal remarks in greater detail. He felt Dr Day was revealing details of a "plan" that was not widely known or even suspected by the public (Dr Day was a former Medical Director of Planned Parenthood). As the years went by and the social changes predicted by Dr Day came to pass, Dr Dunegan realized that these "off the record" remarks were extremely prescient. They spoke of a high-level program to prepare society to accept a 'New World Order'.

Here is how Dr Donegan expressed what the architects of the New World Order had planned for the Bible:

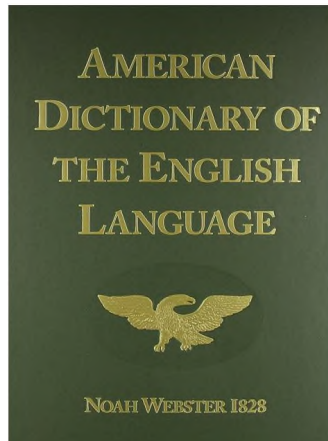
Another area of discussion was religion. This is an avowed atheist speaking. And he said: "Religion is not necessarily bad. A lot of people seem to need religion, with its mysteries and rituals – so they will have religion." But the major religions of today have to be changed because they are not compatible with the changes to come. The old religions will have to go. Especially Christianity.

Once the Roman Catholic Church is brought down, the rest of Christianity will follow easily. Then a new religion can be accepted for use all over the world. It will incorporate something from all of the old ones to make it easier for people to accept and feel at home in it. Most people won't be too concerned with religion. They will realize that they don't need it.

In order to do this, the Bible will be changed. It will be rewritten to fit the new religion. Gradually, key words will be replaced with new words having various shades of meaning. Then, the meaning attached to the new word can be close to the old word. And as time goes on, other shades of meaning of that word can be emphasized, and then gradually that word replaced with another word. I don't know if I'm making that clear.

But the idea is that everything in Scripture need not be rewritten, just key words replaced by other words. And the variability in meaning attached to any word can be used as a tool to change the entire meaning of Scripture, and therefore make it acceptable to this new religion. Most people won't know the difference; and this was another one of those times where he said: "... the few who do notice the difference won't be enough to matter."

We can see from this that Noah Webster was exceptionally farseeing. He understood the need to stick closely to God’s Word and to preserve intact the strong foundation provided by the King James translation. This meant recognizing the way the Holy Spirit used His own Lexicon to fasten together the various threads of divine theology and render them in a form that we could understand.



We can appreciate this best when our regular Bible study touches on the original Greek and Hebrew words and the way they were handled by the translators.

The more we ask, the more He can pour into us

There are countless examples throughout the Bible where a skilled but unbelieving translator would fail to find the right word. Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit we are essentially deaf to what He is trying to teach us. And even as He is teaching us we are growing in wisdom and understanding, so that we can never say – either to ourselves or to anyone else – that we have fully plumbed the depths of His Word:

**“And if any man think that he knoweth anything,
he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.”
(1 Corinthians 8:2)**

How many preachers and pastors today, not to mention eminent professors in our seminaries and theological colleges, presume to know otherwise!

This is why we should ask God lots of questions about His Word. The more we ask the more He can pour into us.

Let’s look at an example.

It had always struck me as odd that church elders and Bible teachers would quote Isaiah 9:6 so frequently and yet never see a need to explain the last three words, “Prince of Peace”:

**“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and
the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name
shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God,
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)**

Most commentators, when they expound this passage, do so broadly along the same lines as Albert Barnes, who wrote:

The Prince of Peace - This is a Hebrew mode of expression denoting that he would be a peaceful prince. The tendency of his administration would be to restore and perpetuate peace. This expression is used to distinguish him from the mass of kings and princes who have delighted in conquest and blood. In contradistinction from all these, the Messiah would seek to promote universal concord, and the tendency of his reign would be to put an end to wars, and to restore harmony and order to the nations...

[Barnes continued to revise and update his commentary throughout his lifetime, and his final version was completed shortly before his death in 1870.]

In his commentary on the book of Isaiah, H A Ironside took a similar view:

“The Prince of Peace.” As such He was presented to the world and heralded by angels (Luke 2:14); but because of His rejection there can be no lasting peace for Israel or the nations until He comes again. Then He will be manifested as the One who will speak peace to all peoples (Isaiah 32:1-18). Meantime, having made peace by the blood of His Cross, all who put their trust in Him have peace with God; and as we learn to commit all that would naturally trouble or distress to God in prayer, peace fills our hearts and controls our lives.

Neither of these interpretations of this precious Messianic title is inaccurate and, as far as we know, they have met the expectations of most believers. But so much is missing!

The awful forfeiture of peace

When Adam and Eve rebelled against the sovereignty of God, they lost the incredible peace that they enjoyed in their sinless state. It did not slowly fade away but disappeared in an instant. The harmony between man and God was shattered. They knew immediately that something truly horrifying had taken place. So, when they heard the voice of Christ in the Garden, they hid themselves. They knew they were naked! The nakedness in question was not purely physical but spiritual, a state of complete alienation from the source of all inner peace.

Christ went to the Cross to reconcile man with God. To reconcile means, in this context, to restore what was lost. The peace that was lost in the Garden was restored on Calvary. We know it first as justification, when we are born again. However, this gives but an earnest or foretaste of what is yet to come. The seed of true peace is planted within us when we are saved but we come to know it in its perfection only when the next two steps – sanctification and glorification – are complete.

The patient waiting for Christ

We are waiting for the Prince of Peace!

The Apostle Paul called this **“the patient waiting for Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5)**

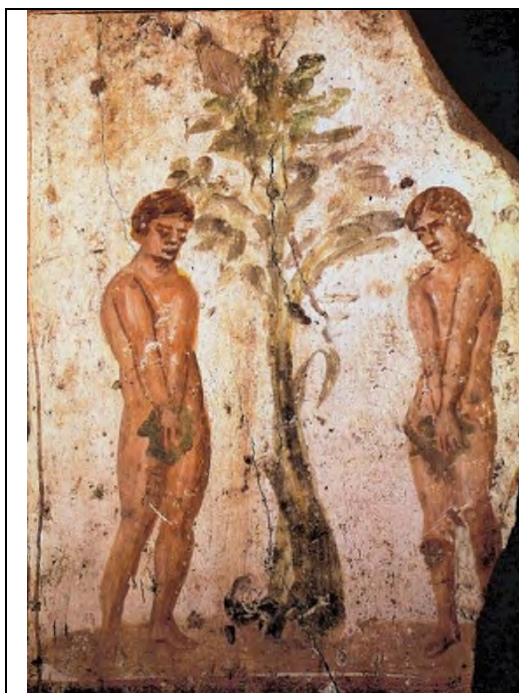
He himself referred to this waiting process – perhaps a little impatiently – when he said, **“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (Romans 7:24)**

He had only just referred to the war that was taking place in his flesh, the continual agitation of his fallen nature:

**“But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.”
(Romans 7:23)**

This is the same “captivity” that Adam and Eve experienced when they rebelled against God. Their peace disappeared and a war began, a war that would never end until the Prince of Peace intervened and – at an immeasurable cost to himself – freed us from the captivity of our fallen nature.

The peace that Christ brings is infinitely far above anything that we know here on earth, way beyond the “universal concord” that Barnes describes or the “lasting peace” among “the nations” to which Ironside refers.



Adam and Eve
Fresco c 3rd century AD
in catacombs of
Marcellinus & Peter
in Rome.

The Prince of Peace in the Old Testament

**“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
The LORD make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.”
(Numbers 6:24-26)**

This prayer denotes the triune nature of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit blesses and “keeps” (preserves) us; the Father makes His face shine upon us; and the Son gives us peace – **“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you” (John 14:27).**

Expositors differ as to how these roles ought to be assigned, but we have no doubt that this is the correct order. The Holy Spirit never shows His face or countenance to us, so He cannot be the Person described in either the second or third parts. Meanwhile the third part must refer to Christ, the Prince of Peace, as the one who gives us peace.

We get confirmation of this in the great Messianic Psalm 110, where, at his second coming, the Lord will “drink of the brook” in the way and “lift up the head.” He will pursue after his enemies, like David or Gideon, and refresh himself at a stream while pursuing the enemy. He will then lift up his head in triumph – thus revealing his countenance – and continue his victorious campaign:

**“The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent,
Thou art a priest for ever after the order of
Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand shall
strike through kings in the day of his wrath.
He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill
the places with the dead bodies; he shall
wound the heads over many countries. He
shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore
shall he lift up the head.” (Psalm 110:4-7)**

We are given a glimpse of this in his letter to the Philippians when Paul says:

**“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”**

(Philippians 4:7)

What a remarkable statement! The peace that passes all understanding is the peace we will know only in glory. While we are still in the flesh we are chained to the ravages of ageing, to the slow accumulation of the wages of sin which ends in death. As the Psalmist says, even in our best state – the best we can possibly be – we are “altogether vanity”:

**“Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and
mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his
best state is altogether vanity. Selah.” (Psalm 39:5)**

This is why as believers we are enjoined to live in the constant expectation of Our Lord’s imminent return, to the complete manifestation of the wonderful work which he accomplished on Calvary. As Paul said, we can only see it now as “through a glass, darkly”, but when Christ returns we will see it face to face and we will know as we are known:

**“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to
face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as
also I am known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)**

What an astonishing prospect for all who love God! We are but a step away from a peace that passes all understanding.

This is all made possible through the Prince of Peace! This divine epithet points directly to all that he achieved on our behalf on Calvary.



***The People of
Jerusalem hasten to
meet the Savior,
stained glass,
Chartres, 12th century.***

**The name
JERUSALEM
means
“foundation of peace”.**

A personal glimpse of perfect peace

We are asked to clothe ourselves daily in the armor of God, which entails being shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:15). The word “preparation” implies readiness, where the believer walks and engages with life in the sure knowledge that, with every step, he is moving closer to a peace that passes all understanding.

As we grow in Christ we learn to rest in both the prospect and the promise of that peace. In a real sense it is ours already since its ultimate fulfilment is certain, and this certainty is itself an earnest of the peace to come. We only have to realize and accept it.



The LORD very graciously gave me a day of exceptional peace about 15 months after I was saved. I woke up on Sunday 15th November 2009 in a state of inner tranquility which was far removed from what I would normally enjoy, even on a ‘good’ day. And it came from nowhere. I had not prayed for it and had no idea what it was for. I dropped my plans for that day and simply sat around enjoying this wonderful feeling of well-being and blessedness. It was as though a war in my bones had suddenly ceased and my physical and emotional health had blossomed. My mind was as clear as a bell and I was focused totally in the moment. The nearness of God was in every breath.

The experience lasted the entire day.

When I awoke the following morning it was gone and never returned. Everything was back to normal.

Later I understood that God was teaching me about true spiritual peace, the peace that Jesus earned for us on Calvary. That singular day was a foretaste – albeit a very limited one – of the peace that passes all understanding.

Paul was referring to Isaiah 64:4 when he described how, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we can know what believers in former times did not and could not know:

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 2:9-12

Christians may not be exploring as they should **“the unsearchable riches of Christ” (Ephesians 3:8)**. We can hardly do this if we doubt the existence of those riches or if think of them only in abstract terms. As the Word of God says, He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him:

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
(Hebrews 11:6)

Christ is not an abstraction! He is a real person, just like us, and like us he too is waiting. We are waiting for him, and he is waiting for his Father to send him forth and gather his Bride: **“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them!” (Psalm 139:17)**

He is the Prince of Peace and the peace that he offers – which passes all understanding – he will give abundantly, without measure, to all who believe in him.

As the Prince of Peace, he is the ONLY source of peace. The wicked will never know peace. Christ alone is peace, and having rejected Christ, the wicked have rejected peace:

“There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.” (Isaiah 48:22)

“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.” (Isaiah 57:21)

This pronouncement is given twice to emphasize its importance.

We see most vividly the intensity of their rejection in chapter 16 of the Book of Revelation where, despite the agonizing pain produced by their sins, the wicked continue to rail against God and blaspheme His holy Name:

“And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.” (Revelation 16:8-11)

CONCLUSION

The current generation has avoided much of the war and turmoil that grieved previous generations. We have been led to believe that the international institutions which were established after the Second World War will ensure that nothing like it will ever happen again. But this is an illusion. Wars are caused by the ultra-rich cabal who serve Satan. These men and women, throughout their generations, have always found ways to break covenants, undermine treaties and foment fresh conflict. As the Word of God says, **“the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest” (Isaiah 57:21)**. They only tolerate peace as a means or an opportunity to prepare for the next war and devise better ways of killing or enslaving an ever larger number of victims.

Few people today seem to realize that the current epoch of peace is about to end and the world will be hurled once more into horrendous conflict. The wicked have been engineering this for decades behind a wall of lies, keeping the masses in darkness. They see it as the only way of taking their plans for world domination to the next level.

Christians who equate political cohesion and socio-economic stability with the peace that Christ represents will be greatly shaken by this. This will certainly be the case among those who have swallowed the lie of Dominionism, the false belief that the world will be gradually ‘Christianized’ in the decades ahead and a great revival will take place.

We do not know when the Rapture will occur, but we do know for sure that true believers are far from immune from the perils that afflict the human condition. We accept what life brings, living each day in the knowledge that **“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)**

The inner peace that we enjoy as believers will continue to be an enormous comfort in troubled times, but we cannot ignore our mortality. Here is how the Apostle Paul described it:

“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.” (Romans 8:23)

Even we ourselves, who are saved, groan within ourselves. The peace that passes all understanding is guaranteed, but it is not ours yet. Nevertheless, if we fix our minds on God, we can enjoy the “*shalom shalom*” spoken of by Isaiah:

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” (Isaiah 26:3)

The Hebrew words which the KJV translates as “perfect peace” are *shalom shalom*, literally “peace peace”.

What is more perfect on this earth than a peace which nothing can touch?

**Jeremy James
Ireland
March 20, 2024**

- SPECIAL REQUEST -

Time is running out...

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Readers who wish to be included on a future mailing list are welcome to contact me at the following address:-

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