

For thousands of years, mankind has sought world peace, but has yet to achieve it. We could give many examples of man's failed attempts at world peace, but there is no sense wasting our time doing that. Instead, I want to focus on what the scriptures say about peace and how God intends to bring it about. After all, this is Sukkot, a festival that pictures a time of peace for all God's people and ultimately for all mankind. Until that time, God wants us to experience a glimpse of that peace, so God tells us in Leviticus that -

<sup>ESV</sup> **Leviticus 23:42-43** "You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All native Israelites shall dwell in booths, <sup>43</sup> that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

And as it says later on -

<sup>TNK</sup> **Deuteronomy 16:15** You shall hold a festival for the LORD your God seven days, in the place that the LORD will choose; for the LORD your God will bless all your crops and all your undertakings, and you shall have nothing but joy.

During the festival, we are to experience 'nothing but JOY'! So for these 8 days, we're going to be practicing Peace and talking about the JOY we will experience during the Messianic Kingdom, and how YHVH will bring peace to the world.

## What is Peace?

So let's get started by coming up with the Biblical definition of PEACE.

When we think of 'peace' we generally consider it to be the cessation of hostilities – either between man and his wife, between siblings or families, or between nations. When you are no longer battling each other, there is peace.

Though that's part of the definition, a more correct word to define peace is 'completeness'. The Hebrew word for 'peace' is 'shalom' (שָׁלוֹם – 7965) and according to Strong's, its primary meaning is 'completeness, soundness, welfare, peace'. So what does that mean? The best way to find out is to look at its root word, which is 'shalam' (שָׁלַם – 7999), which in this case Strong's defines as 'to be in a covenant of peace'. Not too helpful!

So let's see how 'shalam' is used in scripture. We'll start with Exodus 20 –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Exodus 21:33-34** 'And if a man opens a pit, or if a man digs a pit and does not cover it, and an ox or a donkey falls in it, <sup>34</sup> 'the owner of the pit shall make it good (shalam); he shall give money to their owner, but the dead *animal* shall be his.

Let's say the animal was an ox, and since the ox is now of no value to its owner, the digger of the pit must restore the value of the ox to the owner and the owner must forfeit the ox. By doing so, the pit digger restored 'wholeness' to the ox owner by restoring the value of the ox plus nothing more. This is 'restitution' which is nothing more than making the scales balanced again. We might call it – Justice. Now the two men should be satisfied, and there should be no problems between them.

Let's look at another case –

**Leviticus 5:15-16** If a person commits a trespass, and sins unintentionally in regard to the holy things of the LORD, then he shall bring to the LORD as his trespass offering a ram without blemish from the flocks, with your valuation in shekels of silver according to the shekel of the sanctuary, as a trespass offering. <sup>16</sup> And he shall make restitution (shalam) for



the harm that he has done in regard to the holy thing, and shall add one-fifth to it and give it to the priest. So the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering, and it shall be forgiven him.

In this case, the person's offense is against God. Thankfully, God has made a way to 'patch things up' between the person and Himself, and that's by making a special offering. In doing so, the man has restored the relationship and God is satisfied. Shalom has been re-established.

So 'shalom' is when things are the way they should be between individuals and between individuals and God. It's about relationships. In our personal lives, it's about restoring relationships with our spouse, our children, and our friends.

When talking about peace between nations, or even 'world peace', it's more than just 'beating swords into plowshares'<sup>1</sup>, it's about using those plowshares to promote the welfare of each other.

### Shalom Aleichem

While we're on the subject of Peace, let's talk a little about the greeting 'shalom aleichem'.

'Shalom Aleichem' means 'peace be unto you', and with what we see in the meaning of the word 'peace', when you greet someone with those words, you are in effect saying 'may your day be complete' or 'may everything work out for you the way it should'.

The phrase 'shalom Aleichem' is first found in the Bible when Joseph's brothers return to Egypt after finding that the money they paid for grain had been returned to their sacks. As they approached Joseph's steward's home, they met him at the door of his house where he listened to their case. When they were through, he answered them –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Genesis 43:23** '... Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money.' Then he brought Simeon out to them.

By the Joseph's steward saying 'Peace be with you ...', he was showing his desire that the brother's day would work out as it should, and as the scripture shows – it did! Joseph's scheme was supposed to humble his brothers so that restoration could begin, and it was.

So Joseph's steward's greeting is the only real place we find the greeting in the Tnakh<sup>2</sup>.

The next place we see it is in the New Testament just after Yeshua's resurrection. He had walked with some of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, but they did not recognize Him. Later that day, while eating a meal together, they did recognize him – not because of what He said, but what He did - probably the way He blessed and broke bread that evening. Later that same evening, Yeshua met with all the disciples - except for Thomas - after they had been told that He was still alive. Knowing that they were terrified at His presence, He calmed them -

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Luke 24:36** Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, 'Peace to you.'

'Shalom Aleichem!' A gentle reminder that this is how it was supposed to be. So He explained –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Luke 24:44-45** ... "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 2:4

<sup>2</sup> Also mentioned in Daniel 6:25, but in Aramaic



He told them that 'it's all going as planned'. Then he showed them in the scriptures so they would be comforted and encouraged.

### Kingdom of God

So let's apply this into our understanding of the Kingdom of God.

David and the prophets wrote extensively about God's Kingdom. David said -

**Psalm 145:10-12** All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your saints shall bless you! <sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, <sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Everything God has done culminates in His kingdom. The kingdom of God is the purpose for mankind being on the earth. So let's talk a little about the Kingdom of God and its purpose.

### Yeshua and the Kingdom

The theme of Yeshua's ministry was the Kingdom of God. It is mentioned at least 99 times in the New Testament – 82 times in the gospels alone<sup>3</sup>. When asked by His disciples to show them how to pray, Yeshua responded by saying –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Matthew 6:9-10** Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come . . .

You'll notice that in this 'model' prayer, Yeshua's first request was for the return of the kingdom. And since he was teaching them how to pray, He implied that it should be their first request as well.

Yeshua went all through Judea and Samaria teaching about the kingdom –

<sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 4:23** And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel (good news) of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

After He was killed and later resurrected, He spent 40 days with His disciples teaching them the things they must do in order to get the 'gospel message' out to the world. Though we have few details of what was actually taught, we know that His focus was the Kingdom of God –

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 1:3** To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

He probably spent a lot of that time giving them more and more details of The Kingdom and how He was going to bring it about; and as they saw the Feast of Weeks quickly approaching they probably thought Yeshua would just any time reveal Himself as Israel's new King. So when He announced that He was leaving and that they should remain in Jerusalem, it was only natural that they would ask this one last question –

<sup>ESV</sup> **Acts 1:6** . . . "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Notice again what they said. They said 'will you RESTORE the kingdom'? They did not ask if He would begin the kingdom, but instead, they asked when it would be restored. So what does that mean? It's quite simple. You cannot restore something that has never been, therefore they thought the Kingdom had been on earth before, and that the Messianic kingdom would simply be a restoration of that Kingdom.

So if that's the case; if there was a previous Messianic Kingdom – the Kingdom of God on Earth – what was it, and more importantly – how will it be established again?

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<sup>3</sup> 'Kingdom of God' or 'Kingdom of Heaven'



To help us find what it was, we can turn to a proverb written by one of the wisest men to ever walk the earth – King Solomon. He said -

<sup>ESV</sup> **Ecclesiastes 1:9-10** What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. <sup>10</sup> Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already in the ages before us.

So Solomon taught that things repeat themselves, and if that's so, should we not be able to find a kingdom that might resemble what God said about His kingdom? Yes we should, and I believe we can.

I believe we can get a pretty good grasp on the future kingdom by comparing it to what has come before. So let's discover the former Kingdom of God. Let's see how it came into being, what it was like, and whether or not Bible prophecy indicates that it might be restored the same way.

### Manifestations of the Kingdom

I believe that up to this time, there have been three 'mini'- manifestations of God's kingdom on the earth. The first is that of Israel in the wilderness for 38 years. During that time YHVH was their king and He walked in their midst<sup>4</sup>. His presence was evident by the fire and the cloud<sup>5</sup> which hovered over the Tabernacle and lead them on their journeys. According to the prophets, they are both signs of the Messianic Kingdom<sup>6</sup>.

What's more, Israel ate spiritual food and drank spiritual water every single day as is pointed out by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **1 Corinthians 10:1-4** Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Notice that Paul used the term 'Christ' in his letter. Which by doing so, indicated that ancient Israel was following their 'king'<sup>7</sup>, and thus the Hebrews were part of a kingdom.

Another piece of evidence that shows that the Hebrews were living in a manifestation of God's kingdom was that time 'stood still' in regards to their clothing and shoes<sup>8</sup> and that Moses, Caleb and probably even Joshua - people who clearly followed the 'King' - even stopped aging!<sup>9</sup>.

And finally, in regards to the wilderness journey and subsequent conquest of Canaan, the people lived in tents – temporary shelters, which of course, is the point behind the Feast of Sukkot, or 'Booths', but later moved into houses – their permanent home.

A second manifestation was under the leadership of Joshua. YHVH was still king; He fought their battles; and the people lived under their own vine and fig tree.<sup>10</sup>

The third manifestation of the Messianic Kingdom was Israel under the reign of King David and his son Solomon. To get a grasp of how this kingdom began, we need to rehearse a little Biblical history –

<sup>4</sup> Deut. 23:14

<sup>5</sup> Ex. 13:21; 40:38; Num. 14:15

<sup>6</sup> Isaiah 4:2,5

<sup>7</sup> the term 'Christ' is not part of a name, but is instead a title which means 'king'. It comes from the Greek word 'christos' (5547) which means 'anointed'. It is the Greek counterpart to the Hebrew word 'mashach' (מָשַׁח – 4886) which was used when Moses anointed the priests to their offices, and was also used to anoint King Saul (1 Sam. 15:1) and later, King David (1 Sam. 16:12-13).

<sup>8</sup> Deut. 4:5

<sup>9</sup> Deut. 34:7; Joshua 14:10-11

<sup>10</sup> Joshua 24:13 - 'Own vine and fig tree' is an idiom indicating that the people had their own plot of land that they could pass on from generation to generation.



After the death of Joshua, the thirteen Israelite tribes were somewhat autonomous and YHVH was their king. But after about 400 years, the people requested a human king, and Saul – from the tribe of Benjamin – was chosen by YHVH to be their king. During his reign the tribes seem to have drifted apart in their allegiance to Saul to the point that by the time he died, the nation was split between north and south, with the southern kingdom (Judah) anointing David as king, while the northern tribes (who adopted the name ‘Israel’) anointed Ishbosheth, one of Saul’s remaining sons, as king.

David reigned over Judah for about seven years during which time there were many wars between Israel and Judah. Seeing that Israel (the northern kingdom) would never prevail over David’s army, the leaders of Israel formed an alliance with David and later officially adopted him as king, thus making the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah one nation under one king –

<sup>ESV</sup> **2 Samuel 5:1** Then all the tribes of Israel<sup>11</sup> came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. <sup>2</sup> In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" <sup>3</sup> So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel.

After David united the two Hebrew peoples and became king over all Israel (both Israel and Judah), he attacked the Jebusite city of Jerusalem and established it as the capital of Israel, then for the next few years set out to conquer the nations around him. He started with the Philistines (2 Sam 5:17-24;8:1), then the Moabites (2 Sam. 8:2), followed by the Syrians (2 Sam. 8:3-6), and the Ammonites (2 Sam.10:1-19).

So David built his kingdom by first uniting Judah and Israel together as a people, then setting up his throne in Jerusalem, and finally defeating the nations around him. By the time Solomon became king, Israel was at peace with the nations, thus the scriptures say that Solomon’s kingdom was ‘firmly established’<sup>12</sup> – a term that means ‘exceedingly stable’.

### Solomon’s Kingdom

The peace that followed allowed Solomon to usher in a new age for Israel. Solomon, by the way, means ‘peace’ in Hebrew, and in fact Solomon enjoyed peace for nearly his entire 40 year reign as King. Thus it could be said that Solomon could be called ‘the Prince of Peace’

Because he did not have to deal with war, Solomon focused his attention on building Israel into an economic superpower and on properly judging his people. So when Solomon prayed to YHVH for the wisdom to properly judge this great kingdom that David had built, YHVH answered by saying -

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Kings 3:11-13** ... "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup> I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days."

And YHVH did just that. He showered Solomon and all Israel with blessings. They became the ‘superpower of superpowers’ you might say. According to 1<sup>st</sup> Kings –

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Kings 4:21-25** Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of

<sup>11</sup> By this time, the northern tribes were collectively being called ‘Israel’ while the southern tribes were called ‘Judah’. See Genesis 48:8-16

<sup>12</sup> 1 Kings 2:12



his life ... <sup>24</sup> For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphshah to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates. And he had peace on all sides around him. <sup>25</sup> And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon.

And because Solomon followed God (at least for much of his reign), the people were happy -

<sup>ESV</sup> **1 Kings 4:20** Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea. They ate and drank and were happy.

So Solomon served YHVH, and YHVH blessed him and the Hebrew people with peace and wealth. Everything was going the way it was supposed to go, and the nations around Israel took notice. As the fame of King Solomon spread throughout the known world, ambassadors from nations far off were sent to 'check it out', and so we have the story of the Queen of Sheba -

<sup>NKJ</sup> **2 Chronicles 9:3-7** And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>4</sup> the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, there was no more spirit (breath) in her. <sup>5</sup> Then she said to the king: "*It was a true report which I heard in my own land* about your words and your wisdom. <sup>6</sup> "However I did not believe their words until I came and saw with my own eyes; and indeed the half of the greatness of your wisdom was not told me. You exceed the fame of which I heard. <sup>7</sup> "Happy *are* your men and happy *are* these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!"

The hallmark of Solomon's Kingdom was peace, and peace can be contagious. After all, what most people want is to be left alone so they can work their farm and provide safety and security for their family. Solomon provided that, and that is what the Kingdom of God is all about.

Solomon's kingdom was (in my opinion) the first truly established Kingdom of God. It's interesting to note that the pinnacle of Solomon's many achievements was the Temple in Jerusalem, the dedication of which took place during the Feast of Tabernacles – the festival that symbolizes World Peace.

### The Messianic Kingdom

So when a young Jewish rabbi named Yeshua came on the scene preaching 'the Kingdom of God is at hand', the people stood up and took notice. They were well aware of the many prophecies of a messianic figure that would come in the spirit of their hero – King David – the conquering king.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Jeremiah 23:5-6** <sup>5</sup> "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. <sup>6</sup> In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely . . .

But Yeshua did not become that conquering king – at least not at His first coming - and as a result, many of the Jewish people became discouraged and refused to follow Him. If they had remembered their history, things may have been much different. Apparently they had forgotten that David's greatest victories did not come at the beginning of his reign, but only after he had successfully united the two Hebrew peoples – Israel and Judah – back together as one people.

But Yeshua did remember, so instead of preparing for war, He did as David did and set out to bring peace between Israel and Judah. And that's just what the prophets said should have happened.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Isaiah 11:10-13** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples - of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting *place*<sup>13</sup> shall be glorious. <sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will

<sup>13</sup> menuwchah (מְנוּחָה) – 4496) the noun form of 'nuach' – rest.



extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. <sup>13</sup> The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart, and those who harass Judah shall be cut off; Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah, and Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

This is the PEACE that Yeshua longed for. He wanted His people to be at peace with each other. That's the way it out to be. So in His day, Yeshua did not focus on removing the occupying army of Rome or the illegitimate king Herod. He did not surround Himself with military leaders. Instead, He surrounded Himself with fishermen and tax collectors - disciples who would carry His message of the restoration of the Kingdom to their Israelite brothers. He spoke of 'loving your brother' and returning to the walk God had given Israel. He told Pilate –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **John 18:36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now <sup>14</sup> My kingdom is not from here."

But it was not time to fight the Romans. His mission was to restore the two Hebrew peoples – which did begin to happen, but has yet to be fulfilled. But once peace between God's people has been established, Yeshua – like His father David - will set out to retake Jerusalem and set up His throne.

### Restoring the Kingdom

The prophecy of Zechariah talks about how the nations will then gather together in Jerusalem to take a stand against Yeshua and His people as they make their way to Jerusalem to retake the city<sup>15</sup>.

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Zechariah 14:3-4 & 9** Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. <sup>4</sup> And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south ... <sup>9</sup> And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be -- "The LORD *is* one," And His name one.

After removing the invading armies from Jerusalem, Yeshua will then take on the enemies of Israel in much the same order as did David.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Isaiah 11:14** But they (Israel and Judah) shall swoop down on the shoulder of the Philistines in the west, and together they shall plunder the people of the east (Syria). They shall put out their hand against Edom and Moab, and the Ammonites shall obey them.

### World Peace

Once Yeshua has subdued the nations around Israel and Judah, Yeshua – like His father David - will no longer have to fight the enemies of Israel. Instead He will be able to turn His attention toward bringing about 'lasting world peace' so that He can rightly wear the title 'Sar Shalom' – the Prince of Peace.

But 'lasting peace' will not happen overnight. It will take a lot of time – probably decades or even centuries. Why is that? Because Yeshua is not going to force His way on the people. He does not want a world of 'mind numb robots' as Rush Limbaugh used to say<sup>16</sup>. He wants people who want to follow Him

<sup>14</sup> 'Now' is from the Greek word 'nun' (3568) which means 'at this time'. This implies that His kingdom will someday be in Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> See [https://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/YomKippur\\_Jubilee/YomKippur\\_Jubilee.htm](https://www.amiyisrael.org/articles/YomKippur_Jubilee/YomKippur_Jubilee.htm)

<sup>16</sup> What about 'ruling with a rod of iron'? In Rev. 19:15 the word 'smite' (3960) means 'to smite gently'; the word 'rule' (1165) means 'to feed, tend to a flock'; and the word 'rod' (4464) means 'a staff'. YHVH may



because of the blessings that follow and because it is the 'right thing to do'. It's like the old adage – 'a person convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still'.

Instead of using force, Yeshua will rebuild the kingdom slowly – waiting for the nations to choose Him, just as the northern kingdom of Israel asked Judah's King David to be their king as well. He will be in no hurry just as He said to His disciples -

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Luke 13:18-21** "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? <sup>19</sup> "It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches." <sup>20</sup> And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup> "It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

So Yeshua is willing to let the kingdom grow slowly so that instead of having to 'force the peace' by militaristic means, He will be able to let the nations choose peace; and how would that happen? According to Isaiah, it would continually grow through 'judgment and justice'

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Isaiah 9:7** Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever ...

'Judgment and Justice'. That's the hallmark of a successful society, and the Queen of Sheba recognized that in King Solomon when she said –

<sup>NKJ</sup> **1 Kings 10:9** "Blessed be the LORD your God, who delighted in you, setting you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD has loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

So it appears that Yeshua will begin by establishing Torah-based judges throughout Israel and her vassal nations. As they begin to experience the benefits of true justice, they will begin to adopt many of the other Hebrew customs, even the Torah.

They, along with Jerusalem, will become a 'city upon a hill' – a 'light to the nations' because they too will be happy – just as it was in Solomon's day. And the other nations will be drawn to that light!

<sup>ESV</sup> **Micah 4:1** It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, <sup>2</sup> and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

As they hear of the wealth, happiness, and peace of the Hebrew people, the nations will desire it for themselves. They will send ambassadors to Israel to 'check it out' and will bring what they've learned back to their home nations. And if they find their nation and surrounding nations at odds with each other, they will ask the 'righteous judges' of Israel to step in -

<sup>ESV</sup> **Micah 4:3** " ... He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide<sup>17</sup> for strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore ..."

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correct the nations, but it is not His intent to destroy them. Rather, He wants to lead them to His way (Ezek. 33:11; Mark 6:34; 1 Peter 2:25).

<sup>17</sup> The word 'rebuke' in some translations is 'yakach' (יָכַח – 3198) which means 'to prove, decide, judge, etc. The context implies resolving a dispute.





YHVH intends to bring a 'Lasting Peace' to the world, but He knows that if peace is going to last, it must happen peaceably ... you cannot 'force' peace on anyone. So He intends to 'lead' them to peace, just as a shepherd leads his flock – by speaking to them and showing them the blessings of walking in His ways.

But what if some don't turn to God? Will not follow His ways? Will not live 'peaceably' with others? How will God handle that? Yeshua explains that in the Parable of the Tares<sup>18</sup> where He shows that at the end of the age (the end of the 7000 years of man, of which the final 1000 years is the Messianic Kingdom) Yeshua will send His angels to judge and gather those who intentionally cause others to stumble and practice lawlessness. They will be gathered together and will receive their judgment by being completely destroyed (in the Lake of Fire<sup>19</sup>).

### Israel Will Fulfill Her Calling

Drawing people into God's Kingdom has always been Israel's intended purpose. The first generation – those who kept the Passover and walked through the sea were given this responsibility, but they fail to do their job and subsequently died in the wilderness. Moses then reached out to the next Generation while camped on the banks of the Jordan saying -

<sup>ESV</sup> **Deuteronomy 4:5-8** See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. <sup>6</sup> Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' <sup>7</sup> For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? <sup>8</sup> And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules as righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

That was Israel's calling. Always has been, and always will be.

So – how will world peace come about? It will come by God's people letting their light shine so that collectively they are an example of a lifestyle that will draw people to God's way of life.

Though much more could be said about God's coming kingdom, I hope we can see that His kingdom is very real. It's a kingdom where real people do real things. Jerusalem will be a real city with a real king. The people will do real work, planting, harvesting, and teaching the nations the real truth about God's laws. Israel will again be a real nation; a nation that's not divide, but a nation that's dedicated to walking in God's ways and teaching the truth.

What is our role in this? We are to be the teachers and shepherds that Messiah Yeshua (King Yeshua) will send out to the nations to teach them by our words and our example the 'good news' about the Kingdom of God.

There is reason God called us, so let us be FILLED WITH JOY!

Shalom Aleichem

### Additional Reading:

- **And All Israel Shall Be Saved** – shows a scripture-based pathway to eternal life in God's Kingdom for those who died without having a relationship with YHVH, the God of Israel.  
<https://www.amiyisrael.org/articles.php#BM-AllIsraelSavedP2>

<sup>18</sup> Matt. 13:39-42 – It's important that all mankind learn to resist evil. That's the purpose of the tares. If they don't repent, they will suffer their fate at judgment.

<sup>19</sup> Rev. 20:15