

Christ in All The Scriptures

Proverbs - Part 3

Introduction

It would seem at a first reading of Proverbs that there is very little regarding the Lord in it. In fact, if asked “Where is the Lord found in Proverbs?”, the majority of people would refer to chapter 8:30, the verses used to portray the person of the Lord as “Wisdom”. Divine persons are the source of all wisdom whether speaking of God (1 Kgs. 4:29; Ecc. 2:26; Jam. 1:5); Christ (Col. 2:3); or the Holy Spirit (Ex. 35:31; 1 Cor. 12:8).

Ezra acted according to the wisdom of God (Ezra 7:25), a characteristic of God (Job 36:5; Dan. 2:20; Lk. 11:49; Rom. 11:33). It is natural to ask, “What are the characteristics of the wisdom of God or the wisdom from above?” James informs his readers that one of the features of the wisdom that is from above is peaceable (Jam. 3:17). If we substitute “Christ” for each attribute of wisdom, that would read, “Christ displays the wisdom which is from above, which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

In this paper we can only muse on the peaceable characteristic of the Lord. Throughout the scriptures there are a number of verses which relate to Him and “peace” in at least four avenues of thought:

- a) Personally He is the:
 - i) **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. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isa. 9:6, 7).
 - ii) **Proclaimer of Peace** “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!” (Isa. 52:7).
- b) He assures:
 - i) **Promise of Peace** Concerning the Lord, Isaiah wrote, “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever” (Isa. 32:17).
- c) He is :
 - i) **He is the Bestower of Peace** “My peace I give unto you” (Jn. 14:27)
- d) By His sacrificial death He is:
 - i) **Procurer of Peace** “For . . . the chastisement of our peace was upon Him” (Isa. 53:5; Col. 1:20).
 - ii) **Protector of Peace** for He declares: “For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee” (Isa. 54:10).
 - iii) **Perfecter of Peace** for He keeps in perfect peace those who trust Him, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee” (Isa. 26:3).
 - iv) **Power of Peace** “LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us” (Isa. 26:12).

The Inward Peace of The Lord

While the above truths are exceedingly delightful, yet when James informs us that the wisdom that is from above is “peaceable” and we consider this feature of the Lord, then our focus is turned to the inward character and its manifested external characteristics of the Lord.

- a) The first observation is the apparent contradiction between Christ being peaceable and the fulfiller of the angel’s words, “On earth peace” (Lk. 2:14) and that which He stated, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34). Assuredly, there is not

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contradiction. The answer is that the acceptance of the holy and righteous ways of God are not conformable to this sinful world. Therefore, since darkness does not want illumination as to its depravity in rebelling against the rule of God, there is conflict.

- b) How did the Lord know unperturbed peace?
- i) The peace of God filled His heart and mind because, He knew what it was to “follow hard after God”. He lived with an open ear and determination to obey (Isa. 42). He knew not only the character of God but the blessed peace it brought. Is God ever worried or anxious? Is God ever concerned about His own ability? Is the brow of God ever furrowed due to the unknown? Such were never and will never be.
 - ii) He knew eternity and lived life in the reality of it. He was never unsure of what to do or where to go, for he had unshadowed communion with God and spiritual ears clear from all dulness and distortion. Consequently, every assessment of any situation or decision to be made had been weighed in the consciousness of God. He knew the purposes for which He had come. It was to preach the gospel, to declare the Father’s name, to glorify God on the earth and to finish the work God had given Him to do (Jn. 17:4; Jn. 12:27). The peace of God ruled His heart because God was real to Him and He lived in the awareness and consciousness of God on the Throne.
 1. He left all decision making to the will of God. For example, waiting before coming to the grave of Lazarus, choosing the disciples, and waiting until the disciples were out in the boat and the storm came.
 2. He, who is God manifested, how could He ever know stress or anxiety. He lived fully aware of the unlimited power of His personal ability, the undistorted understanding of God’s purposes which are unfailing, and cannot be frustrated. Worry, concern, apprehension, uneasiness, disquietness or agitation were experiences He knew nothing about.
 - iii) When our Lord spoke a command there was never any doubt that the miracle would happen. When He stood at the tomb of Lazarus and gave that mighty cry for Lazarus to come forth, there was no trembling in His voice or quivering of fear with perplexity in case it did not happen. When about to go to Calvary, to His disciples He said, “My peace I give unto you . . . let not your heart be troubled” (Jn. 14:27). Perfect calmness filled His mind and body. When with Pilate, Herod or the chief priests and elders of the people, no matter how cruel their barbs when they cried, “Away with Him” and “we have no king but Caesar” (Jn. 19:15), and even when on the cross in the midst of the unfeeling taunts of humanity saying, “Save thyself” and “He saved others; himself He cannot save” (Mk. 15:30-31), yet He opened not His mouth except to pray, “Father forgive them they know not what they do” (Lk. 23:34). Psalm 22 describes the dreadfulness of humanity by various metaphors: humanity is seen as bulls (Psa. 22:12) which have might by no mercy, dogs (Psa. 22:16) which are savage without sympathy. Yet no murmuring word came from His devoted lips to God and the Father. This was the will of God therefore, while being mocked he accepted it from God as part of His preparation for His future work as High Priest. As we all know, it is not easy to take slander etc. and not respond, however, in the midst of the most hostile environment of being set at nought, there were no words of retaliation nor of helpless resignation. Knowing the will of God He had peace.

Illustrations of The Peace He Gave

An individual who is agitated for whatever reason can never help bring calmness to another. For the Lord to have brought peace to others in these situations, He had to be perfectly at peace in Himself and living in the reality of the peace of the Almighty. Consider the following:

- (a) When the Lord asked Philip about how they would feed the multitude? After the question an interesting comment is made by John, “He Himself knew what he would do” (Jn. 6:5-6). As He took the five barley loaves and two small fishes, we are assured that there was no tremor in His voice as He gave thanks. It was He who had provided for the multitude in the wilderness, it was He who fed the peoples of the world

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for thousands of years, surely this was nothing to make his heart quiver. Absolute peace resided in His heart and mind.

- (b) Consider when He was asleep in the midst of a stormy sea, a sea so agitated due to it being originated by Satan. The scriptures taught, “Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep” (Psa. 121:4). He knew the reality that Father was in ultimate control so in the knowledge of the promise of God, “I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety” (Psa. 4:8). The forces of the wind and heaving of the boat could not disturb His calmness of heart. When one lives in the reality of the truthfulness and sovereignty of God, nothing consciously or unconsciously can disturb their peace. Rising from sleep before rebuking the disciples He removed that which caused their consternation, how very gracious of Him (Mk. 4:38-40). He knew this storm had originated with Satan therefore, He rebuked it, for since the Lord came to do the will of God He never would have rebuked that which came from God.
- (c) There is another aspect of life which I expect most of us have, it’s the realization of so much to do and so little time. When the Lord began His public ministry He had three years to fully accomplish the work God had given to Him. At times we, as many others, also look on the fields ready to harvest, considering the brevity of time before the Lord must come, the degrading devilish politics, economics, educational and government systems of the world, and the untold millions of people dying in their sins and being ultimately banished to the full blast of divine judgment in Hell. There is so much to be done. One of two things result from this realization, a casual apathetic attitude or a sudden flurry of activity which soon dies down. The Lord never manifested either of these “unpeaceful” traits, but having His ear attuned to God morning by morning, He moved according the will of the Father for that day. The interruption of the woman with the issue of blood was not an interruption for Him, God has providentially brought this woman to Him, she needed His immediate attention for He knew what would happen to the child. Had He not already moved with the child’s father, thus showing He was going to lay His hand on the child. No doubt the child’s father was frustrated and in grief when the servant told him the child was dead (Lk. 8:4:49), but the Lord sought to give peace to His heart and said, “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole” (Lk. 8:50).

Conclusion

This is what it means to live in the peace of God, living in the conscious reality that God is always in control, and when we walk with Him, stress and fear are unknowns. This is why Peter was able to sleep in the prison despite the leaders determining to kill him in the morning. The Lord had told him that he would live to be an old man (Jn. 21:18). This is the peace of God “which passeth all understanding” (Phil. 4:7) and can “rule in our hearts” (Col. 3:15).

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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