

Psalm for the Soul Peace

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Biblical Peace

‘Shalom’ – a state of being well, whole, and complete.

Our approach.

1. *Psalms that tell us of MERCY. (Psalm 123)*
2. *Psalms that tell of God's PROTECTION. (Psalm 121)*
3. *Psalms that tell us of PRAYER. (Psalm 3)*
4. *Psalms that tell of God's BLESSING. (Psalm 1)*
5. *Psalms that tell us about LOVE. (Psalm 36)*
6. *Psalms that tell us God's MAJESTY. (Psalm 97)*
7. *Psalms that tell us of PEACE. (Psalm 120)*
8. *Psalms that tell of God's WORD. (Psalm 119)*
9. *Psalms that tell of the MESSIAH. (Psalm 110)*
10. *Psalms that tell of WORSHIP. (Psalm 89)*
11. *Psalms that tell of PRAISE. (Psalm 145)*

Ps 120:1

*In my distress I cried to the LORD,
And He heard me. NKJV*

- ***The Hebrew word that is translated 'distress' is 'tsarah' and it means a 'tight place'.***
- ***The psalmist was in a 'tight spot' when he cried out to the Lord.***
- ***Of course, none of us can identify with him can we? 😊***

Ps 120:1

*In my distress I cried to the LORD,
And He heard me. NKJV*

- *The Hebrew word for 'cried' is 'qara' and we looked at it before; it means to speak with such force that we demand attention.*
- *This is the picture; a child is in pain and he calls out to the one who has proven in the past to be willing and able to help.*
- *By experience he knew that his God was both willing and able to help him so he cries out with a measure of confidence.*

Ps 120:1

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- *The scriptures have numerous examples of believers crying out to the Lord.*
- *Ever notice how babies can turn up the intensity and volume of their cries when they can see their mother?*
- *Why do they do that? Because they know from experience what mom will do.*
- *If we do not cry out is it because we have no experience with God answering our cries?*




Ps 120:1

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- *Ps 9:12 For he who avenges murder cares for the helpless. He does not ignore the cries of those who suffer. NLT*
- *Ps 40:1 I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. NIV*
- *Our subject is peace, but as a rule we do not seek peace until we have distress.*

Psalm 120

- *This psalm deals with what it is like to try to live in peace in a hostile world.*
- *There was all sorts of unrest and distress around him for one primary reason; the people in his world did not want peace.* 
- *The lesson for us? Expect hostility, violence, and distress in the world because it's ruler is the author of killing, stealing, and destruction.*

Psalm 120

- *How do we handle our world's proclivity for violence?*
- *Our initial cries are for deliverance from the chaos that is around us, but God's reply is usually more "let me walk you through it" than "let me get you out of it".*
- *He wants us to experience peace 'in' the storm so that we will not fear the storm and then serve him 'through' the storm.*



Ps 120:5-6

How I suffer in far-off Meshech.

It pains me to live in distant Kedar. 6 I am tired of living among people who hate peace. NLT

- ***Notice the words 'suffer', 'pains', and 'tired'; he had enough and wanted out!***
- ***When life throws some of it's junk our way we can feel the same way. We want out!***
- ***Funny thing though; God is not always as anxious to remove us from the flame as we are to have him remove us.***

Ps 120:5-6

How I suffer in far-off Meshech.

It pains me to live in distant Kedar. 6 I am tired of living among people who hate peace. NLT

- ***What if in our ugly, painful circumstances God has work for us to do?***
- ***What if God knows that we are far more likely to lean on him for what we need when we are not quite at peace where we are?***
- ***When we get tired of living among people who hate peace, remember Jesus and his mission. (Hebrews 12:2-3)***



Heb 12:2-3

2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

NIV

John 14:27-28

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. NKJV

- *For all of those who must live in a stressful, hostile world be it known that peace is more of a state of mind than a physical circumstance.*
- *The world defines peace as the absence of conflict, but God's definition has more to do with being a whole and well person no matter our circumstances.*
- *God's peace is not conditioned on our circumstances; it's conditioned upon his faithfulness.*



John 14:27-28

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. NKJV

- ***When we get tired of the fight we need to remember that we have a place of rest, Jesus.***
- ***Matt 11:28-30 Come to Me , all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." NKJV***

Ps 29:11

11 The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace. NKJV

- *When you last counted your blessings, how high was peace on the list?*
- *Even if you only consider peace the absence of conflict you would still have to agree that peace is a tremendous blessing.*
- *How valuable is a place of peace whether it's your home, your church, or just your prayer closet!*



Ps 34:14

***14 Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace and pursue it. NKJV***

- ***Peace is worth pursuing, it's worth effort and work because it has great value.***
- ***Jer 29:7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. NKJV***
- ***1ST Timothy 2:1-2***
- ***Peace is a great atmosphere for evangelism, contentment, and enduring tough times.***

Ps 37:37

37 Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.

NKJV

- *The way of peace is a sure path; you simply need to be blameless. (no big deal right?)*
- *We have been given some sure promises regarding peace and this is one of them.*
- *Blameless, not sinless. There is a huge difference.*



Ps 37:37

37 Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.

NKJV

- *We are also invited to watch this blameless man to see what will become of him.*
- *Will his efforts to live a godly life mean anything at the end of this life?*
- *Will he grow old in contentment or will he grow old in resentment?*

Ps 37:37

37 Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; For the future of that man is peace.

NKJV

- *The world wants to know if this Jesus guy makes a difference in life.*
- *As a rule, the unsaved are discontent and would welcome some living evidence that Christianity is more than going to church and carrying a bible.*
- *When we live out our faith in peace (wholeness and fulfillment) the world can see that there is something to this thing called Christianity.*



Ps 85:10

10 Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. KJV

- *We were God's enemies before we trusted Jesus; the truth of our sin was overcome by God's mercy.*
- *He reconciled us by meeting God's requirement of righteousness and the result of that is that we now have peace with God.*
- *In Jesus all of these eternal necessities and concepts are harmonized and no where else.*



Ps 122:6

*6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you. NKJV*

- *So what are we to do with this today?*
- *We can pray for peace in Jerusalem even if we can do little more.*
- *There is a political debate in our land over how much to support Israel; I personally believe we should support Israel, but a change of government still can't keep me from praying.*



Ps 122:6

***6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you. NKJV***

- ***Does it have broader application for the Christian?***
- ***Jerusalem was the place of connection to God for the people of Israel.***
- ***The church is not the Christian Jerusalem nor is it the Christian temple, but prayers for peace are very much in order for the church.***



Ps 122:6

*6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you." NKJV*

- *How does this apply to the church?*
- *The church needs peace within more than it needs peace with our world.*
- *When we have peace within the church we prosper, too often peace with our world leads to ineffectiveness.*



James 3:18

8 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NKJV

- *There are reasons why it's called the 'gospel of peace', not the least of which is that it comes in peace and leaves peace in its wake.*
- *We are not called to impose our faith on others (even if that were possible).*
- *We are called to make peace and then sow seeds of faith in a peaceful manner.*

James 3:18

8 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. NKJV

- *The fruit of righteousness is 'love'. Love is what his righteousness develops in me and peace is one of love's manifestations.*
- *We are not called to be gospel grumps who think that antagonism and shame will bring the lost into the kingdom.*
- *We are called to be peacemakers in our world through forgiveness (to those who offend us personally) and through evangelism to those who do not know Jesus.*

What do you think?