

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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### The Peace Offering

#### Introduction

In an era when the meaning of a word is changed within a very short time, it is important to understand what was meant when God and the Israelites used the word “shelem” which in Leviticus 3:1 is translated “peace.” In the Gentile world the word “peace” means the absence of hostility or strife, but the Hebrew word also meant plenty. For Instance, after WWII there was a cessation of hostility, but there was also a scarcity of food. Things were rationed so things were not plentiful. The Hebrew word indicates the absence of hostility and abundance.

#### The Removal of Hostility

The peace offering illustrates the fulness of the sacrifice of Christ which not only removes all condemnation through hostility, but also the super-abundance of blessings bestowed. The Lord promised “life more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). We are the recipients of the “exceeding riches of His grace” (Eph. 2:7), “blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Eph. 1:3), and having received “exceeding great and precious promises” (2 Pet. 1:4). When we speak of hostility the question is, “On whose side is the hostility? Is God hostile toward man, or is man hostile toward God, or are both hostile toward each other?” It must be emphatically stated that God was never and will never be hostile toward any individual, but He does execute punishment because of man’s defiance and sin. We have a sense of right and wrong and if an individual does damage to that which is ours, there may be no feeling of hostility toward the individual, but we are certainly angry at what they did and for justice to be met. The punishment must fit the crime. Our sense of justice came from our Creator and His justice demands righteous anger with the wicked every day (Psa. 7:11). God is never angry toward the animal or horticultural creation because it has no moral sense of right or wrong, man has. Therefore, God has a right to be angry at man because of their deeds, arrogance, and determined mind set. Despite man’s rebellion against God, He loves every individual and longs to bring them into peace with Himself. We must make no mistake, no one will ever be able to claim that they are in hell because God was hostile toward them and did not love them. They will be there because they wanted nothing to do with God and His salvation.

The hostility is on man’s part. Man does not want God in his life or to interfere, and shows the ultimate contempt for God by taking His name in blasphemy and counting sin as of no consequence. Only today (2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015) on the news there was a report of the anti-Christian and anti-God movement in the USA. They marched having banners, one which said, “If Jesus returns, Kill Him again”.

Man is born a sinner and is an enemy of God in their attitude and mind by doing wicked works and living in open hostility and rebellion against God. The ultimate act of hostility was when man cried: “Away with Him” (Jn. 19:15); “We will not

have this man to reign over us” (Lk. 19:14); and crucified Him. The tragic reality is that the rejection of Christ by any individual is such as one standing with the throng and also crying: “Away with Him”. That is hostility!

When an individual rejects God’s offer of salvation provided by the suffering of the Lord on the cross of Calvary, then he must suffer the consequences. This rejection is an act of impudent boldness and determined disobedience which God will, in perfect righteousness, bring His judgment upon such an individual. That judgment for an unsaved individual commences at the moment of death, resulting in banishment from God, never again to have an opportunity to have peace with God, and cast into Hell for all eternity. Foolish is the individual who thinks he/she can mock God and not suffer the consequences. The fact is that every individual we see, hear, or know of, every individual who has ever lived, is living, or will live, faces eternity after this earthly sojourn. If an individual neglects God’s salvation then there is no alternative but Hell and the Lake of fire for all eternity. That is their own choice.

### [The Fulness of The Peace God Gives](#)

God offers the blessedness of being brought back into fellowship with God and having peace with God through the substitutionary sufferings of the Lord at Calvary. This is God’s open offer and pledge to all humanity.

- a) “And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh” (Eph. 2:17)
- b) “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1)

Oh the wonder of this truth. Man can be justified by the court of Heaven and have peace of heart and mind, never again to wonder if they have done enough to merit God’s salvation, never again to know the cold sweat of anxiety concerning where they are going for all eternity, never again deceiving themselves in thinking they die like an animal and there is no hereafter. From the moment of salvation the record of all guiltiness of rebellion is forever gone, all through the fulness of the sacrifice of Christ who made peace by the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20).

### [God’s Command](#)

God’s command is that all men everywhere are to repent: “God . . . commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30), but He has not made man robots to simply respond to His decrees. Man was made in the image of God, and being made in His image and likeness he, like God, was given a free will. Adam did not have to take the fruit. It was a choice and God calls it disobedience (Rom. 5:19). God gives the glorious opportunity to man: “Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace” (Job 22:21). This is a choice the individual must make, to obey or disobey, to acquaint themselves with God or stay in the state of rebellion. If the individual desires to reject the proffering of God and choose to live in disobedience, then the scriptures are plain. The individual who lives never accepting the peace God has provided through Christ, then that individual will die under the condemnation and judgment of God. The choice to be made is obedience or disobedience, live in a state of peace with God or hostility against God. The Lord will come to such (using the verses in this context) “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 1:8). It is a warning to obey as reinforced again: “What shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Pet. 4:17).

### [Peace Means Plenty](#)

One of the ploys of Satan in Eden was to imply that God is holding back on full happiness. Just as Adam and Eve fell for this lie, there are many today who think that if they become a Christian, accept the peace God gives, then life will be a bore. The reality is, God and His salvation is not boring, but despite the sorrows of life that are common to all, the individual who has the peace of God and lives in its reality, knows a contentment all the pleasures in the world can never give. It was only after man sinned and lost his work as a gentleman farmer that he sought ways to give life meaning. Satan was saying to man “You do not need God for excitement, you can build a city (Gen. 4:17); have multiple wives (Gen. 4:19); be a herdsman (Gen. 4:20); enjoy the fine arts of music and poetry (Gen. 4:21, 23-24); and be a sculpture of beautiful things (Gen. 4:22). Man soon discovered that all the world can give can never give peace to the conscience.

How rich is God’s salvation? There is not a stingy iota in God, for God is love, and when He gives it is in abundance. Perhaps the best known verse in the Bible examples the fulness of God’s love in giving, warning, and enlightening, is John 3:16-18

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

What was God's purpose? To provide a Saviour who would suffer my chastisement and provide eternal life with its peace with God, for the "whosoever will." The choice is the decision of the individual.

**What Will Your Answer Be**

Some-day you'll stand at the bar on high, Some-day your record you'll see;  
Some-day you'll answer the question of life. What will your answer be?

Sadly you'll stand, if you're unprepared, Trembling, you'll fall on your knees;  
Facing the sentence of life or of death, What will that sentence be?

Now is the time to prepare, my friend, Make your soul spotless and free;  
Washed in the blood of the Crucified One, He will your answer be.

*. . . . Rowan Jennings*

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