



Sermon Notes

Advent 2024-2

From Anxiety to Peace- “Prince of Peace”

Anxiety: (American Psychological Assoc.)

“Anxiety is an emotion characterized by feelings of tension, worried thoughts, and physical changes like increased blood pressure.”

Advent: Wait Expectantly- Isaiah 9:1-7

Advent 1 - From Despair to Hope - “Mighty God”

Advent 2 - From Anxiety to Peace - “Prince of Peace”

Advent 3 - From Sorrow to Joy - “Wonderful Counselor”

Advent 4 - From Indifference to Love - “Everlasting Father”

Isaiah 8:22

And they **will look to the earth**, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

Isaiah 9:4-5

4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, **you have broken** as on the day of Midian.

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Ashurnasirpal II (883-859BC)

“I flayed many right through my land and draped their skins over the walls.”

“I cut off the heads of their fighters [and] built [therewith] a tower before their city.”

“... I captured many troops alive: I cut off of some their arms [and] hands; I cut off of others their noses, ears, [and] extremities. I gouged out the eyes of many troops.”

Sennacherib (704-681BC)

“I cut their throats like lambs. I cut off their precious lives (as one cuts) a string. Like the many waters of a storm, I made (the contents of) their gullets and entrails run down upon the wide earth. My prancing steeds harnessed for my riding, plunged into the streams of their blood as (into) a river.

2 Kings 18:19-20

¹⁹ And the Chief of Princes said to them, “Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours? ²⁰ Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? In whom do you now trust, that you have rebelled against me?’

2 Kings 19:19

So now, O Lord our God, save us, please, from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone.”

2 Kings 19:35

“And that night the angel of the Lord went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies.”

Isaiah 9:4-5

4 For the **yoke of his burden**, and the **staff for his shoulder**, the **rod of his oppressor, you have broken** as on the day of Midian.

5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

Advent 2 - From Anxiety to Peace - “Prince of Peace”

Shalom- Confidence in the ‘wholeness’ God provides.

Isaiah 9:6

“For to us a **child** is born, to us a son is **given**; and the **government** shall be upon his shoulder, and his **name** shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.”

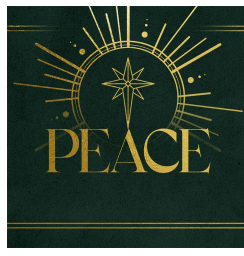
1. Acquisition of Peace

It’s a Name: “...and His name shall be called...Prince of Shalom!” **Isa. 9:6**

It’s a Gift: “... my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives ...” **John 14:27**

It’s Oneness: “For He Himself is our peace, who has made us both one...” **Eph. 2:14**

It’s Salvation: “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” **Romans 5:8**



Study Guide

Advent 2024-2

From Anxiety to Peace- “Prince of Peace”

This advent, we are spending time in Isaiah 9:1-7, and this week, specifically 9:4-5, with reference to God breaking the “rod of the oppressor.” The brutal army of Assyria was at the gates of Jerusalem, and anxiety was at an all-time high.

1. According to the American Psychological Association, *“Anxiety is an emotion characterized by feelings of tension, worried thoughts, and physical changes like increased blood pressure.”* Notice that it starts with thoughts and feelings and leads to physical problems. Why do you think anxiety is so rampant in our culture? Where does it come from? How have you experienced it?

2. Read Isaiah 9:4-5. Consider that, although we don’t have a physical army at our gates, we have the world, the flesh and the devil at war with us, and weighing heavily on us. As soon as we become Christians, we become targets of the enemy, who can’t take our salvation, (John 10:28), but who wants to make us anxious and ineffective. What did you expect when you became a Christian? Did you expect all your problems would go away (see John 16:33)? Discuss how false expectations can make us feel even more anxious.

3. Read Isaiah 9:6 and consider the “Prince of Peace”!

Peace (Shalom) means, confidence in the ‘wholeness’ that God provides.

-It’s a name, “...his name ...’**Prince of Peace**” (Isa. 9:6).

-It’s a gift, “...my **peace** I give to you...” (John 14:27).

-It’s salvation- “...justified by faith...we have **peace** with God...” Romans 5:8

-It’s oneness with Jesus, “He Himself is our **peace**...” (Eph. 2:14).

Share how you experienced peace when you asked Jesus to come into your heart to save you.

4. Read Philippians 4:6-7 and discuss the regular habit of letting God’s peace flow into your heart to guard your mind. How do you do this? What has been your experience? *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

Application- Take a few minutes to pray quietly and tell God what makes you anxious.